Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-154
Thursday
12 August 1993

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FBIS-NES-93-154 *12 August 1993*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Source: Arab Countries Stand by Libya

LD1108104293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0843 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Aug (KUNA)—A responsible Arab League source has confirmed that the Arab stand on the crisis between Libya and some Western countries over Lockerbie is clear and was represented in the League council's decision.

In a statement to KUNA here today, the source pointed out that the League council's decision was represented in the Arab countries' confirmation that they will stand by Libya's call for a fair trial for the Libyan citizens some Western countries are accusing of blowing up the U.S. plane over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988, and the lifting of the sanctions imposed on Libya since the beginning of 1992.

Regarding today's reports in the UAE newspaper AL-ITTIHAD about the participation by Arab League observers in the trial of the suspects in a British court, the source said the League knows nothing about this and has thus far not received anything on the matter, so he doubts that the report is true.

Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's Arab League permanent representative, confirmed at a recent news conference here that his country will not agree to hand over Lockerbie's suspects to any country concerned with the crisis, even if it is subjected to more sanctions.

AL-ITTIHAD quoted senior sources as saying that the accused Libyans will soon announce that they are giving themselves up of their own volition to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who will provide sufficient guarantees for a fair trial under the auspices of the international body.

The newspaper said the secretary general did indeed give the Libyan Government guarantees that the suspects will receive a fair trial in a British court because the Arab League and the UN will attend the trial as observers.

Some 270 people were killed when a US Pan Am plan exploded over Lockerbie in Scotland.

The British Foreign Office yesterday confirmed that a fourth meeting between Libya and Britain took place in Cairo toward the end of July to discuss Tripoli's connections with the outlawed IRA.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that during the meeting Libya provided Britain with all the answers to the questions asked last November concerning Libya's ties with the outlawed IRA and arms shipments from Libya to that army.

The British Foreign Office welcomed Libyan cooperation on that subject, but stressed that it "does not replace the need for Libya to adhere to all Security Council resolutions on the hand-over of the Libyan citizens accused in the Lockerbie case for trial in either Scotland or the United States.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO To Make Peace Delegates Its Official Envoys

NC1108134993 Paris AFP in English 1033 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Amman, Aug 11 (AFP)—The PLO will appoint the Palestinian delegates to peace talks with Israel as its official envoys to the peace process, forcing the Jewish state to deal directly with the organization, a Palestinian official said here Wednesday [11 August].

The move is aimed at skirting Israeli demands that delegates be strictly limited to Palestinians from the occupied territories, said the official, who declined to be identified.

The official said the procedure would allow the Palestine Liberation Organization to become Israel's direct interlocutor. Israel refuses to deal with the PLO directly.

A decision on the matter is expected at a meeting of the PLO's executive committee late Wednesday at the organization's headquarters in Tunis.

It comes in the wake of reports that three key Palestinian delegates had resigned over a policy rift with the PLO leadership on how to proceed with the negotiations.

Earlier, PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat told a Jerusalem news agency that the organization's executive committee, or ruling body, would decide what to do about delegation leader Faysal al-Husayni, spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi and deputy Sa'ib 'Urayqat.

The trio from the occupied territories resigned in Tunis on Sunday in protest at 'Arafat's new "moderate" stance in a policy document for negotiating interim autonomy from Israel.

A Palestinian official in Jerusalem said they had withdrawn their resignations after winning assurances from 'Arafat that they would be consulted about new initiatives in the future.

He said the three delegates would officially submit their resignations to the executive committee.

"The executive committee will then make their mandate official, appointing them direct representatives of the PLO at the peace negotiations," he said. "It will be an indirect gain for the PLO."

Leadership Expresses Confidence

JN1108171493 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Under brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], and in the presence of the brother members of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, the Palestinian leadership began an expanded meeting in Tunis last night to discuss the peace negotiations strategy.

An official Palestinian spokesman said the meeting is being attended by 30 leading Palestinian figures, including 11 PLO Executive Committee members and 12 Palestinian negotiators. Those included brothers Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi. He said the discussions will deal with methods of action to satisfy the negotiators. He said the conferees will assess the results of the talks that the Palestinian negotiators held with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last week. They will also discuss the strategy of the peace negotiations during the next stage.

The Palestinian official spokesman said the PLO leadership has reiterated full confidence in the Palestinian negotiators continuing the march toward achieving the desired peace. He said the two sides have laid down plans to organize the mechanism of action during the next stage of the negotiations with Israel.

Delegation Agrees To Postpone Jerusalem Discussion

TA1108181193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Sari Nusaybah, deputy head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation's steering committee, has said that the Palestinian side agrees to postpone discussion of the Jerusalem issue until a later stage, provided Israel does not take steps that might alter the status of the city's Arab sector. Nusaybah, who is now in Tunis, affirmed that no differences of opinion exist over this issue between the PLO leadership in Tunis and the negotiating delegation.

Nusaybah: Resignation Issue Settled

NC1108171493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Tunis, 11 Aug (MENA)—Sari Nusaybah, deputy chairman of the Palestinian negotiating delegation's advisory committee, has stated that the issue pertaining to the resignations of Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the advisory committee; Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation; and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the delegation's official spokeswoman is now over and that all differences between these three people and the Palestinian leadership headed by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat have been settled.

Nusaybah, who participated in the Palestinian leaders' meeting with the delegation members last night, announced that the resignation issue has been settled and that the three members have withdrawn their resignations. The Palestinian leaders then discussed with the negotiating delegation the Palestinian plans for the coming stage of the peace process.

Nusaybah added that the leadership and the negotiating delegation held another meeting under 'Arafat's chairmanship today. The chairman of the delegation also attended the meeting. They continued discussing future Palestinian strategy and the peace negotiations' work mechanism in a manner guaranteeing full coordination between the Palestinian leadership and the negotiating delegation. This is necessary in view of fact that the next stage of the peace process will be decisive.

Senior Delegates Criticize 'Abd-al-Shafi in Tunis

TA1108171693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Palestinian sources in Tunis have told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that during the past two days Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat focused on explaining their threat to resign from the delegation and accused Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi of evading responsibility and submitting to the pressure of the Palestinian street. The three told PLO Executive Committee members that 'Abd-al-Shafi refrains from participating in the adoption of decisive and difficult positions.

Abu-Mazin Denies Egyptian Pressure on PLO Leadership

LD1108173793 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee, denied that Egypt and its political leadership had exerted any type of pressure on the Palestinian leadership.

This denial comes in reply to what some mass media circulated that Egypt had exerted pressure on the PLO leadership to cooperate with the U.S. proposal.

Abu-Mazin pointed out in a press statement, published by WAFA today in Tunis, that Egypt responded to the Palestinian political orientation in this respect, and played a faithful role in conveying the Palestinian point of view to the U.S. secretary of state.

Details Behind Differences Over Document Related

JN1208112493 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Aug 93 p 25

[By the Palestinian affairs editor]

[Text] What is the story of the differences between the Palestinian delegation and the Palestinian leadership?

AL-RA'Y publishes this story, supported by documents signed by President Yasir 'Arafat, the first official in charge of the Palestinian leadership, and Faysal al-Husayni, the first official in charge of the Palestinian delegation.

Sources close to the Palestinian delegation have said that several formulas—which were crystallized by some Palestinian leaders such as Dr. Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and other leaders, in agreement with the Egyptians—were submitted to Faysal al-Husayni while in Cairo before Christopher's visit. Al-Husayni rejected these formulas, but the leaders urged him not to disclose them.

In Jerusalem, al-Husayni disclosed to some of his colleagues in the Palestinian delegation what the Palestinian leadership was considering in agreement with the Egyptians.

During Christopher's visit to Cairo, the Egyptian president handed him a Palestinian document reflecting common ideas between the Palestinian leadership and the Egyptian administration. However, Christopher, along with Dennis Ross, refused to receive the document in Cairo because he does not deal with the PLO, whether directly or through the Egyptians. Christopher demanded that the document be handed to him in Jerusalem through the Palestinian negotiating delegation.

Al-Husayni received the Palestinian document, addressed to the Palestinian delegation from Abu-Mazin and signed by Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in Jerusalem on the night of 2 August 1993. He briefed the Palestinian delegates on the document at Orient House in Jerusalem. These members were Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Dr. Nabil Qassis, Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir, Dr. Su'ad al-'Amiri, and Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib.

The delegates became acquainted with this document and unanimously rejected it, asserting that it was unacceptable. The delegation also affirmed that it would refuse to officially hand the document to Christopher in the Palestinian delegation's name during their meeting in Jerusalem. Some Palestinian delegates pointed out that it was an Egyptian, and not a Palestinian, document because its content reflected the Egyptian, and not the Palestinian, position.

The assessment of a large number of the delegation members was that President 'Arafat did not realize the extent of concessions included in the paper which was prepared by Abu-Mazin and the Egyptians. However, Faysal al-Husayni was surprised by Abu-'Ammar's handwritten notice on the paper, which said: "Please, read and submit to Christopher, and you can also attach to it details on the Gaza-Jericho issue, or present these details later."

Faysal al-Husayni and the other delegation members were astonished, because they realized that President 'Arafat supported Abu-Mazin's paper, which includes all the clauses of the U.S. paper with very slight amendments related to the territorial jurisdiction. The paragraph on territorial jurisdiction, which was previously handed by the delegation itself to Dennis Ross, was added to the paper. The paper, signed by 'Arafat, approved the postponement of discussion on the Jerusalem issue at present, and of making decisions on it until the final stage. This was in addition to the applicability of Resolutions 242 to the final stage.

After discussions at Orient House in Jerusalem, the conferees rejected President 'Arafat's paper, and agreed not to submit it to Christopher. This was the first time ever the Palestinian delegation refused to respond positively to direct instructions from President 'Arafat.

After signing the paper and sending it, President 'Arafat instructed the delegation members to submit it to Christopher, and hinted that he would allow no violation.

The sources close to the Palestinian delegation said that the delegation members agreed that al-Husayni alone should go to meet with Christopher at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem to tell him that the paper which was given to him in Cairo does not express the Palestinian delegation's views. However, because Faysal al-Husayni refused to go by himself, it was proposed that other delegation members go with him. This is what actually took place, and the Palestinian paper was not submitted during this meeting.

Several contacts were held among the delegation, Cairo, and Tunis after the meeting with Christopher. During these contacts, Abu-Mazin held talks with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh with Dr. Su'ad al-'Amiri, who tried, to no avail, to persuade the delegation members to change their position on the paper.

During these contacts, the delegation summed up its objections, which were published by AL-RA'Y the day before yesterday and which were ignored with the exception of some unimportant sentences. 'Arafat signed the paper again and attached to it the following comment: "Please, read the new amendments and submit the amended paper to Mr. Christopher. Best regards. [dated] 5 August 1993."

Commentary: Disagreements Examples of Democracy

JN1108201493 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Israeli media, and the Western media in general, recently rumored that there are sweeping and deep differences between the Palestinian negotiating delegation and its legitimate leadership in Tunis. Most regrettably, some Arab papers ran detailed accounts of such differences and specified their points. Throwing out innuendos against the PLO leadership and holding it responsible for the difference, the papers attributed such differences to the document presented to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his recent tour of the region. To begin, we say that it is quite natural for the enemy to seek to undermine the credibility of

the PLO and the unity of the Palestinian position. The enemy has propagated alleged differences and alluded that a rupture will take place between the negotiating team and the PLO leadership. This entire attempt is aimed at achieving one longstanding enemy objective, i.e., splitting Palestinian ranks and lending credence to the argument that our people inside and outside the occupied territories are two separate entities. This is preparation for reviving the dead plan of instituting an alternative leadership. The failure of this attempt is the best proof that this plan is impossible to revive.

Yes, this attempt has ended in complete failure. The Palestinian ranks have emerged stronger and more coherent. The Palestinian position is unified, not only on the U.S. document, but also on all topics of negotiation and the essential points of disagreement at the negotiations. The entire Palestinian position is adamant about Jerusalem and territorial jurisdiction. There is no difference anymore between the position of the negotiating team and their legitimate leadership. In fact, we cannot speak of two opposed parties. There are no resignations, about which some, along with the Zionist enemy's mass media, created a hubbub.

After the Palestinian leadership's meeting in Tunis, attended by a number of the brother members of the negotiating team, especially Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Faysal al-Husayni, and Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat, it has become clear that the issue was nothing more than a question of different interpretations and viewpoints about several points in the document presented to Christopher. These points were tackled through democratic dialogue. Such differences are even aimed at further consolidating the Palestinian position.

In this context, we are happy to say: Yes, we may disagree, but this is in order to advance our march of liberation. Yes, we may disagree, but we tackle differences through a responsible, democratic dialogue and within our legitimate frameworks and institutions. Yes, we may disagree. Difference is a healthy, cultural, and natural phenomenon, but we do not leave each other. Our difference of viewpoints remains in the interest of the supreme national interest. We may disagree, but with the objective of agreeing on the best formula in the service of our people and their legitimate rights. We may disagree, but in order to entrench the course of democratic dialogue and respect for the institutions so our political decisions can be the decisions of institutions, not individuals.

Otherwise, how can we develop the ideal and best positions without an interaction of viewpoints through democratic dialogue? How can an idea be enriched and allowed to achieve its objectives without dialogue and accountability? This is our approach and style of action, for the sake of Palestine in our struggle to fully restore our national, legitimate rights. We thank our responsible, democratic dialogue, which has once again foiled the enemy attempts to split our ranks and break the unity of our position. Many thanks.

Divisions Over Gaza First, Jericho Option Noted

JN1208084193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12-13 Aug 93 p 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Last week's announcement that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is willing to consider a "Gaza first" with Jericho option to accelerate and facilitate the possibility of a Palestinian-Israeli breakthrough at the peace talks has created a heated debate within the Palestinian community, both in the diaspora and in the occupied territories, with the focus of that effort being on what it actually means to the peace process.

The PLO's or more specifically Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's conception of the Gaza first scenario appears to be that an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the governorate of Jericho would be a precedent to further Israeli withdrawal and would be the beginning of a phased departure by Israel from the Palestinian land that it illegally occupies.

While many, if not most Israeli politicians, have called for an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, the proposal has not been fielded at any of the 10 rounds of talks between the two sides since the peace talks began at Madrid in October of 1991.

After Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said that the PLO would consider taking control of Gaza and Jericho as a first step towards breaking the Middle East peace talks deadlock last week Yossi Beilin, Israel's deputy foreign minister, told the press that "we are quite enchanted with Gaza first, but much less so with Jericho, but we don't reject the idea and would consider it seriously."

However, the Israeli version of Gaza first is the handing over of administrave affairs of the strip to Palestinians rather than ordering an actual military withdrawal.

"Palestinians handling the dirty work and then reporting to Israeli authorities is what the Israeli plan would entail at this stage," Palestinian peace negotiator Ghassan al-Khatib told the JORDAN TIMES.

There are thus two conflicts involved in the Gaza first strategy. One is the deep Palestinian scepticism about Israeli intentions to make the move the first of several steps towards total withdrawal and not an end in and of itself. The second conflict is between the PLO and Israel over the definition and scope of the Gaza first option.

In the first instance, Dr. Labib Kamhawi said, it is true that "the Israelis do not want Gaza, but they do want the West Bank. If we relinquish the linkage between the two territories, by accepting the first option then we play into Israeli hands and do exactly what they want."

This Palestinian commentator and other opponents of the Gaza first theory argue that Israel would claim that it has complied with U.N. Resolution 242 by relinquishing

control over Palestinian land and would make no further withdrawal from the rest of the occupied territories.

"A withdrawal from Gaza would save the Israelis from a (human) time bomb and then we would lose any bargaining power vis-a-vis the West Bank," Dr. Kamhawi insisted.

The opponents also fear that a de facto Palestinian state would be created in Gaza and that Israel would thus argue that a Palestinian state existed in Gaza thus nullifying any claim to the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Critics of Chairman 'Arafat have argued that he wants to create a base for himself and the PLO fighters in Gaza. "He needs a base for himself and the PLO apparatus and he thinks he can set it up in Gaza," one of them said.

Palestinians, from both the negotiating team and others close to them, argue that Israel is not offering a military withdrawal but simply a chance for Palestinians to do the dirty work for the Israelis and that such a step would be unacceptable.

Mr. 'Arafat "would try to sell even self-administration as a victory to his people," contended one Palestinian negotiator last week.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict over the Gaza first throry can also be described as one of communication and understanding.

"If Israel continues to speak of creating self-administered territories, which it ultimately controls, and the Palestinians continue to talk about self-rule and self-government and independence from the Israelis, we will never go anywhere since these are two people who are speaking two completely different languages," one Palestinian observer said.

The lack of progress after 10 rounds of talks and the perceived willingness on the part of other Arab parties and the U.S. to arm-twist Palestinians into accepting concessions is fuelling radicalisation of the Palestinian position, especially in the occupied territories who think that the PLO leadership is sitting to cave in to pressure.

"Our children who have spent years in prison or who have lost limbs in the resistance movement have not fought so that the PLO and other Arab leaders surrender our rights; they fought so we can keep our land," said Abu-'Amr, 45, a father of two intifadah leaders who are imprisoned for their activities against the occupation.

The PLO's ruling circles, headed by Mr. 'Arafat, now appear the most moderate of all Palestinian groups. Some Palestine National Council members believe that the PLO is afraid of losing it role and is thus playing the part of the all-willing peace partner while others argue that the PLO chairman fears the other Arab parties will strike a separate peace with the Jewish state and leave the Palestinians out in the cold.

Opponents of the peace process and the Gaza first plan argue that no Arab state, in particular Syria and Jordan, would sign a peace treaty with Israel without a satisfactory solution to the Palestinian-Israeli question.

"It will be up to the Palestinians to say no to a bad deal and the rest will follow," said a former Fatah member who has defected to Hamas, the Islamic Movement.

"Syria and Jordan would never have gone to the peace talks without the Palestinians and they won't sign without the Palestinians either" argued the defector.

Egypt

Musa Comments on Palestinian Divisions, Regional Issues

NC1108161693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egyptian-Palestinian relations are very close and that Egypt's firm and unchangeable stand on the Palestinian issue is one of support. Its position is also one of help for the Palestinian side in its negotiations within the framework of the peace process whenever the need for this help arises and when they request it. He added that this is done within the framework of the Arab stand.

In statements he made today, the foreign minister said that Egypt can facilitate a number of matters, open doors, and help the Palestinian side propound some of its ideas, and hence there is no problem between Egypt and the Palestinians. He added that the problem that has emerged was caused by some circles who like to add their negative contributions. He said that these problems will disappear quickly and will not affect Egypt's backing of the Palestinian issue.

He noted that Egypt's view is expressed through consultations where the concerned parties express their views, adding that this will stay the same and that Egypt's stand on events in the region and the negotiations process will continue to be expressed in line with Egypt's firm ideas.

Stressing that the principles are firm, the foreign minister said: We will not stop expressing our view of what is happening in the region or stop working to achieve certain situations related to the Arab situation, Arab security, peace in the Middle East, and protection of Arab rights. Egypt will not abandon or concede these principles. He stressed that there is no pressure but consultations and exchange of views at the consulting table.

He also stressed that there are no differences at all between Egypt and the Palestinians on the issues under discussion. Musa called on the Palestinians to avoid widening the gap of differences between them and to tackle the divisions that appear between them because what is needed is unity of the Palestinian ranks and the Palestinian leadership.

He said: If there are divisions, then it is not right to involve the names of other countries or try to cast aspersions on the stands and policies of fraternal countries that are, in the end, the haven, the security, the helper, and the backer of the Palestinians. He warned against resorting to the method of random accusations against Egypt because this will be harmful to the Palestinian issue and the Arab climate. He said that Egypt will not allow a return to the bad era through which the Arab nation has passed, adding that this is a warning.

Regarding the message that he had received from the U.S. secretary of state, Musa said: Warren Christopher is happy with his meetings in the region, whether with the Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem, the Israeli Government, Syria, or Lebanon. His evaluation is that all the parties have expressed the desire to continue the negotiations process and the hope that progress will be made in the negotiations. He added that there is almost unanimous agreement to resume the negotiations during the first week of September.

Regarding the Palestinian paper and whether Egypt interfered in it, the Egyptian foreign minister said: The story about Egyptian interference has not an iota of truth in it. They [not further identified], and especially the yellow press in some Arab countries, have started to say that there was an Egyptian paper, that Egypt exerted pressure on the Palestinians to accept it, and that the Palestinians have split over this matter because it was an Egyptian paper but this is not the truth.

Musa added: There was a U.S. paper that incorporated Palestinian changes and this turned it into a Palestinian reply. Palestinian changes were introduced to this paper and Egypt supported the paper. [as received] We defended the Palestinian position before the U.S. side and discussed the Palestinian view in the presence of Abu-Mazin [PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas], Nabil Sha'th, Faysal al-Husayni, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and Sa'id Kamal. The U.S. and Palestinian papers were studied. We were asked for our opinion, as were the English. Faysal al-Husayni went to London and met with the British foreign secretary. They spoke to him about drafts and drafts were prepared and agreed on by the two sides. He added: If there is a British draft, then why should there not be an Egyptian one? Still, there is no Egyptian draft.

Musa said that the allegations, falsifications, and reliance on lies are a matter that should end. He stressed that Egypt will publish the whole truth at the proper time.

He also stressed Egypt's continued help to the Palestinians who need Egypt's backing.

In his statements, 'Amr Musa said that the Palestinian paper was drawn up by the Palestinians with some British contributions. Egypt might have added certain improvements to the draft of this paper, Musa added.

On the direct dialogue between Israel and the PLO, the foreign minister said there is clear progress on this issue. He noted that meetings had taken place in various capitals and not only in Cairo. He said that the Palestinian leadership under Yasir 'Arafat is a national leadership serving the peace process. We believe in this leadership, and any cooperation with Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] would be useful and would benefit the cause, Musa added.

The foreign minister said that a comprehensive solution means that we are passing through the stage of a comprehensive settlement among all sides. He pointed out

that the Palestinian paper records the points of agreement reached by the Israeli-Palestinian track on the various issues that concern the core of the problem under discussion, namely, Resolution 242, Jerusalem, and the regional and legal framework. He said that Resolution 242 has no other interpretation except that which was applied to Sinai.

Touching on Libya and its crisis with the West, the foreign minister said that President Husni Mubarak had held contacts with the three Western states in a bid to halt any escalation of the situation and to give diplomatic efforts a chance to implement the UN laws. We hope that the sanctions will not be intensified and that diplomacy will be able to achieve a reasonable solution commensurate with the Security Council resolution. He said that Libya has renounced terrorism, expressed readiness to implement the Security Council resolution, and accepted the formation of an international commission to ensure that there are no terrorist camps in Libya.

On the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, 'Amr Musa said that Western policy, including U.S. policy, is being meticulously examined. The West threatened and NATO adopted resolutions to strike at the Serbs to protect Sarajevo. In fact, many countries cast doubt on Western credibility because the Serbs are now challenging the West. This also represents a challenge to the international community.

Musa said that this situation represents a blatant challenge to the new world order. Nobody believes that there is a new world order or that there is only one policy regarding human rights. He expressed regret at the Russian and Greek stands on the Serbian aggression on Bosnia-Herzegovina, adding that the implementation of the UN resolutions must be applied to all situations.

Speaking about the problem in Somalia, the foreign minister said that the solution to the Somali crisis lies in achieving national reconciliation. He pointed out that the presence of UN forces aims to help Somalia attain national reconciliation. He voiced regret for the ongoing acts of violence there, affirming that this cycle of violence will move Somalia to the zero point.

Continuing, the foreign minister said that President Mubarak, in his capacity as the chairman of the Organization of African Unity and president of Egypt, is holding contacts with several leaders, the United Nations, the Arab League, and the Islamic Conference Organization, in coordination with the Ethiopian president to stress the importance of achieving national reconciliation and implementing the Addis Ababa resolutions.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that his meeting with his Sudanese counterpart will take place in October, noting that the differences will be patched up through negotiations.

He said that he will tour southern African countries at the end of next week to convey messages from President Mubarak to the African leaders. He added that this tour is a prelude to other African tours.

In his statements, the foreign minister dealt with the situation in South Africa, saying that the acts of killings and violence cause concern to Egypt. He said that his talks during the tour will focus on this situation. The talks will also deal with the situation in Mozambique, Rwanda, Liberia, and Angola, he added.

In his statements, the foreign minister also touched on the Western Sahara crisis, affirming that Egypt is making every effort in cooperation with the United Nations to hold a plebiscite. He reiterated Egypt's support for the UN secretary general's role in this regard.

Addresses Arab Security, Ties, Africa

NC1208111393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1019 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Aug 93 (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that Egypt is currently studying the pan-Arab security draft the Arab League has prepared.

He said in a statement today that Arab experts will hold a meeting before the Arab League Ministerial Council meeting scheduled for 19 September to study the draft and put the final touches on it to present it to the Council.

Musa stressed that the rules for defining pan-Arab security—whether it should be exclusively devoted to military aspects or should involve political and economic aspects as well—should be established. He pointed out that the issue of disarmament, as well as Arab relations with neighboring countries, falls within the context of pan-Arab security.

Touching on the issue of terrorism and extremism, Musa remarked that terrorism targets pan-Arab security and therefore Arab cooperation is necessary to eliminate this phenomenon, particularly since there is international cooperation to fight terrorism.

Musa asserted that Egypt's relations with Gulf states are "strong and stable," adding that ties with Saudi Arabia are close, which is significant for stability in the Arab stand. He affirmed that Egyptian-Saudi relations have many strategic dimensions.

Difference in views should not be interpreted as a sign of lukewarm relations, because this is not true, Musa said, adding that ties with Gulf states are based on stroog foundations.

Speaking about the Damascus Declaration, Musa remarked that "the Declaration is the ideal document demonstrating Arab interaction." It was the first document to be issued after the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. Although it should have been implemented more widely and quickly, the Declaration remains a good and active document and chances for rejuvenating it still exist, he said.

Touching on the Middle East multilaterals, Musa pointed out that the meetings of the committees branching from the multilaterals are being held regularly and that they achieve slight progress. He does not expect much progress in the multilaterals unless progress is made in the Arab-Israeli bilaterals.

The foreign minister noted that Egypt will offer to host the meeting of the environment working group next November.

At the African level, Musa remarked that preparations are under way to hold a meeting of experts to discuss the peaceful settlement of African disputes. He added that the meeting will be held in Addis Ababa under the chairmanship of the Egyptian ambassador to Ethiopia. A meeting of African foreign ministers will be held in the Ethiopian capital in November to prepare for an OAU mini-summit, he said.

Musa touched in his statement on Egypt's relations with France and their impact on the African Continent. He asserted that there is close cooperation between the two countries and that this cooperation serves the African economic march and supports African political issues.

Palestinian Envoy Denies Interference in Decisionmaking

NC1108144593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received Palestine Ambassador to Cairo Sa'id Kamal today.

The Palestinian ambassador said after the meeting that the Palestinian leadership is currently meeting in Tunis to discuss the recent misconceptions that have arisen in the ranks of the Arab public, particularly the Palestinians. He said that 'Amr Musa asked him to convey an important message to the Palestinian leadership and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. The message explains the Egyptian role, which supports and assists the Palestinian people and leadership under the current critical circumstances.

Sa'id Kamal stressed the importance of the Egyptian role both on the Arab and international levels. He said that Egypt—leadership and government—has not interfered in Palestinian decisionmaking for many years.

He said that the misunderstanding that occurred was a result of lack of communication between the leadership and other Palestinian forces. He described media analysis on the presence of pro-Egyptian Palestinians and pro-Jordanian Palestinians as stupid talk. He dismissed reports on the presence of any such groups within the Palestinian ranks. He said that all such talk serves Israel's interests.

Sa'id Kamal stated that Egypt has never interfered, adding that Egypt's role has only been to assist the Palestinians in drafting documents containing proposals.

To a question about the transfer of the PLO headquarters from Tunis to Cairo, the Palestinian ambassador said that talk on this subject is baseless. He affirmed that the media have raised this issue to create confusion. The Tunisian-Palestinian relations are excellent, Kamal added.

On President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, the Palestinian ambassador said that he will present a report to the Palestinian leadership about his talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs. He said in light of this report, the visit will be decided at the appropriate time.

Commenting on reports that direct Israeli-PLO contacts will soon take place, Sa'id Kamal said that this issue has made strides, adding: We are not against such contacts, and we are prepared to conduct a constructive dialogue to shorten the time.

AL-MUSAWWAR Editor Analyzes PLO-Delegation Differences

NC1108172293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1353 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Aug (MENA)—AL-MUSAWWAR magazine chief editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad has called on the Palestinian leaders inside and outside the occupied territories to overcome their internal differences in order to maintain a united Palestinian stance, particularly as no current proposal on the negotiating table justifies any disagreement.

In his weekly article to be published on Friday [13 August], the writer says: No one contests the PLO leadership's right to steer the negotiations, even if it does so directly with Israel. Moreover, no one can ignore the significance of the Israeli recognition of the PLO's legitimacy.

The writer says he is worried about the disagreements besetting the Palestinian position. He referred to a report indicating that the disagreement was caused by the fact that the paper that was recently submitted to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Cairo was a Palestinian-Egyptian document drafted by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's adviser Nabil Sha'th in the absence of the negotiating delegation members and without consulting them. Commenting on this, Makram Muhammad Ahmad says that Egypt does not think of itself as a substitute for the Palestinians, who have the right to make their own decisions. He explained that Egypt's role is limited to offering expert advice to the Palestinians, if they wish to accept such advice. He added that Egypt does not impose itself as a party to the decisionmaking process nor does it play the role of intermediary between the Israelis and the Palestinians, but rather defends the Palestinian stance.

The writer continues: In the words of the PLO leaders, the document that was submitted to Christopher in Cairo was a necessary document because it emphasized

the Palestinian autonomy's geographical jurisdiction over all the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967. It also stressed that the residents of Arab Jerusalem must participate in the elections and nominations for autonomy. This demonstrates the PLO's determination to maintain the city's Arab character.

Makram Muhammad Ahmad adds: The Palestinian document accepted establishing autonomy in Gaza and Jericho [as a first step] as a form of Israeli-Palestinian disengagement along the lines of what happened on the Egyptian and Saudi [as received] fronts in 1974 following the 10 Ramadan war of 1973.

AL-MUSAWWAR's chief editor said that the members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation face increasing pressures inside the occupied territories as a result of their daily contact with a Palestinian public that daily grows more urgent and despairing because of Israel's practices against the Palestinians and the pressures it imposes on them. He said this situation gives some Palestinian groups and forces an opportunity to try to obstruct the negotiations and spoil the chances of reaching a political settlement.

The writer says that the PLO suspects that the negotiating delegation has provoked the latest crisis in order to avoid the responsibility of having to negotiate and make a decision amid a Palestinian atmosphere of worry, apprehension, and anger.

Opposition Labor Party Leader Interviewed on Terrorism

NC1108200593 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 4 Aug 93 p 16

[Interview with opposition Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri by Nihal Shukri; place and date not given]

[Text] [Nihal] You are accused of supporting terrorism, right?

[Shukri] This accusation is baseless because we condemn terrorism in all its forms and condemn violence by all parties. We also cannot remain silent about the ugly violations on the part of the authorities, especially the police, against innocent people. Confessions are wrested from people in torture cells. Hundreds of innocent people are arrested at random and illegal methods are used in investigations. An example of this was what happened in the assassination attempt on former Interior Minister Hasan Abu-Pasha. The then Interior Minister Zaki Badawi announced that a number of people were arrested. Their confessions to the regrettable incident were published and then their names. And their fingerprints were found on the soda bottles they had drunk. After being taken to court on this charge, and they faced the gallows, another group was arrested on the same charge. It then emerged that the first group had nothing to do with the incident. What then do you expect from the innocent young people, after all this?

[Nihal] Why didn't the Labor Party sign the opposition parties' statement that condemned terrorism, since you condemn it too?

[Shukri] This takes us to an important point which is often reiterated by officials, namely, that there are parties that clearly condemn terrorism and that there are other parties—and they specifically mean the Labor Party—that do not clearly condemn terrorism. I say that our condemnation of terrorism does not mean that we should remain silent over the reasons for the spread of these incidents. We had in fact refused to sign this statement because it failed to mention these reasons and hence gave the impression that terrorism was coming from one side only, that is, the young people who use violence and weapons. Despite our condemnation of this method on the part of the young people, we also put on record—in the pages of AL-SHA'B—our condemnation of violence and counterviolence. Also, there are economic, social, and political reasons behind the spread of the phenomenon of terrorism which are the result of wrong government policies.

[Nihal] What are these reasons?

[Shukri] Lady, the continued operation of the emergency laws all these years without a single ray of hope that they will be lifted has made every citizen guilty until he is proven innocent. It has made every defendant guilty until he can prove his innocence. The people believe that the emergency laws have nothing to do with terrorism. Lifting these laws is the beginning of the political reform which is the beginning of any reforms. An atmosphere of freedom must first prevail, freedom to form parties, freedom to publish newspapers. The process of change must be bolstered through the ballot boxes and not through any other way.

The gravest reason is the government's refusal to implement Article 2 of the Constitution which concerns the application of the Islamic shari'ah. The People's Assembly under the speakership of Dr. Sufi Abu-Talib enacted the shari'ah laws and this was publicly announced but the present speaker has denied all this. There has been a retreat. In whose interest? I don't know.

What do the young people who want to adhere to their religion's teachings do when they see a fierce attack on Islam and its symbols?

The basic shari'ah tenets are being burned by the government every day, and not by individuals. For example, the state is the sole manufacturer of alcoholic drinks. It is the one who licenses gambling clubs and takes their revenue as taxes. There is also decadence spread by television, especially the foreign films that show unhealthy relations between family members which are a provocation to feelings. At the same time, while we see that the free services have disappeared completely and the government has taken its hands off everything, from electricity, to water, etc., we see the symptoms of government overspending and prodigality. What happens when we add to all these provocative symptoms the

university graduates who do not find work but find bad treatment in the police stations!!

Take for example the collection and confiscation of weapons in Upper Egypt on the pretext of terrorism when it is the custom of the people in Upper Egypt to keep weapons in their houses for possibly personal reasons. Yet they are surprised to see these weapons confiscated and their owners arrested. Even licensed weapons might be confiscated.

[Nihal] Does this mean that you sanction terrorism, thus supporting the accusation made by some people that you have issued religious rulings authorizing the killing of tourists?

[Shukri] First of all, we have not issued religious rulings of any kind because we are not competent authorities to perform this task. Furthermore, we have not, at any time, supported the killing of tourists. Indeed our position is that they and their possessions are safe as long as they are our guests. We have demanded, however, that tourists respect the traditions and values of this Muslim country. We urged the government to try to see that this is done, particularly as tourists everywhere respect the values and sanctities of the country they are visiting. It is not a strange or bizarre thing to ask. It is neither logical nor acceptable to accuse us of sanctioning terrorism just because we mention its real causes. To remedy any problem—if we are indeed seeking a remedy—we must first diagnose the ailment and uncover its real causes. The smear campaign against Islam and Islamic figures must stop. It is carried out in the newspapers, on the radio and television. We must distinguish between Islam itself and some individual actions that might be wrong. Likewise we must distinguish between sober Islamic policies and some groups and individuals who discredit Islam. I call on those who attack Islam—if they wish to make a serious criticism—to abandon abusive language and methods and accept an objective dialogue based on logical arguments. Furthermore, all aspects of immoral and extravagant living must end. The Emergency Law must be abolished. It is now used to settle personal accounts just as happened in the case of Major General Muhammad Imam and his son, who were killed and their house was destroyed.

[Nihal] Since you are making these demands of the government, what is the Labor Party doing to halt the spread of terrorism?

[Shukri] During the previous parliament, we repeatedly demanded such action. We warned of the danger when it was still incipient. We opposed everything that we believed would make the disaster worse, such as the extension of the Emergency Law and the so-called economic liberalization laws which raised prices beyond the ability of the poor to pay and increased the public's suffering.

[Nihal] We are not asking for your opinion on this issue. We are asking if the Labor Party is doing anything concrete to stop terrorism.

[Shukri] How can the political parties do anything when they are not even allowed to hold public rallies or make statements on television that reach millions of viewers? We are not allowed to hold even a regular party congress, let alone a public rally. Also, what real capabilities does any opposition party in Egypt have? All the real capabilities are in the hands of the National Democratic Party which controls everything and can do anything. Nevertheless, we teach our party cadres that violence produces no results and that in order to achieve the desired objectives they must agitate for political reforms. Political reforms would bring about the desired change peacefully.

Trial of 'Vanguards of Conquest' Members To Open 15 Aug

NC1108182993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Aug (MENA)—Military Public Prosecutor Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah announced today the indictment list in the case of the reorganized al-Jihad group, which is known as the Vanguards of Conquest [Tala'i' al-Fath].

The indictment lists 53 defendants, seven of whom are fugitives. The Military Prosecutor's Office accused them of belonging to an illegal group, possessing arms and explosives, and assassinating several policemen and citizens with the aim of disrupting security and public order.

A military judicial source announced that their trial will begin next Sunday before a Central District military court. He added that the 53 defendants will face charges in military criminal case No. 18 for 1993, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Military Public Prosecutor. The 53 represent the first group to go on trial among a larger number of suspects in the case.

The indictment reads: Defendants No. 1 to No. 51 joined an illegally formed group with the aim of obstructing the Constitution and the country's laws, encroaching on citizens' personal liberty, undermining social harmony by calling for the overthrow of the ruling system, and provoking an atmosphere of instability by carrying out security disturbances and perpetrating several crimes. The defendants also committed premeditated murder and armed robbery and obtained explosives, firearms, hand-to-hand combat weapons, and ammunition without license. They used these weapons in activities designed to disrupt public order and security. Several of the defendants killed taxi driver Subhi 'Ali al-Sayyid and his assistant Qasim Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, appropriated their taxicab, and murdered with premeditation soldiers Bakhit Muhammad Hammam and 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abdallah Radwan and appropriated their weapons while the victims were guarding Post No. 20 in al-Ma'adi [Greater Cairo].

The defendants also attempted to kill soldier Sa'd 'Abd-al-Hadi Mutawi', who was on sentry duty at the entrance of the Saudi Consulate. They stabbed him with a knife and stole his automatic weapon. The victim survived

only by virtue of his resistance and the medical treatment he was subsequently given.

[passage omitted]

[Paris AFP in English at 1559 GMT on 11 August says in a related report: "The main defendants were identified as Majdi Salim, considered the leader of the organization for the Cairo region, and 'Ayman al-Zawahiri, a veteran of the war in Afghanistan against Soviet occupation."

["Several defendants could receive the death penalty."]

Nuclear Energy Authority on Status of Reactors

NC1208055093 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 1 Aug 93 p 12

[Interview with Dr. Fawzi Hammad, chairman of the Egyptian Atomic Energy Authority, by unidentified correspondent in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] Cairo—Dr. Fawzi Hammad, chairman of the Egyptian Atomic Energy Authority [EAEA], has stressed that Egypt is trying to keep pace with nuclear development by modernizing its installations and building a new reactor to be used for medical and chemical purposes. He referred to EAEA's role in the African Continent in protecting foodstuffs from radiation and in the field of medical sterilization through a radiation station with a capacity of 400,000 curies.

Hammad attributed Egypt's lag in the nuclear field to financial reasons, denying that there are any external constraints.

The interview with Dr. Hammad is as follows:

[AL-SAFIR] A lot has been said about the entry of foodstuffs contaminated with radiation into Egypt. What the are the measures being taken to prevent this?

[Hammad] We are taking all the necessary measures in this field. There are laboratories in Alexandria, Port Said, and all Egyptian ports and airports to check the safety of all commodities entering the Egyptian market according to specifications used in Egypt.

[AL-SAFIR] Allow me to convey to you some apprehensions that the EAEA's resources do not qualify it to do this work.

[Hammad] Our resources qualify us to play this role efficiently and capably.

[AL-SAFIR] Several Egyptian scientists have emigrated abroad recently. Have they escaped, or is this the result of the attempts by the advanced countries to empty the Third World of its scientists?

[Hammad] I believe we live in a world that is different from the old world. The world now is without frontiers. We are living in an age of a universal revolution. Generally speaking, various circumstances attract scientists to work abroad, either for material reasons or purely for research purposes. Our scientists are found in Europe, the United States, Canada, and France, and they specialize in various fields. There is no official count of their number. Undoubtedly, they are many. I believe the Arab nation and Egypt have a problem with building a scientific and technological base because the scientific and technological activity in these countries does not occupy the same importance it occupies in the industrial states.

[AL-SAFIR] In your opinion, who is behind the assassination of a large number of Egyptian scientists?

[Hammad] I do not know precisely the reasons for the death of many of them. I do not know how Mustafa Musharrafah or Sa'id Badir died. Perhaps the assassination of Dr. Yahya al-Mashadd was a result of his activity outside Egypt. I do not believe there are plots being hatched against our scientists. With the exception of the case of Dr. Yahya al-Mashadd, I do not believe there is any concrete evidence. Perhaps there is no motive for their assassination after all.

[AL-SAFIR] A lot has been said about the atomic reactor that will be built in cooperation with Argentina. Do you believe it is the best reactor to meet our needs?

[Hammad] In our estimation, this reactor is the best offer. It will have a larger capacity than the existing reactor. Its safety factors are high and many. It will help produce isotopes and great sources of radiation. It will have a 22-megawatt capacity.

[AL-SAFIR] What about the Inshas reactor?

[Hammad] It is being modernized and updated. It will not be put out of commission, as some newspapers have reported.

[AL-SAFIR] At times it has been whispered and at other times it has been said loudly that nuclear waste is being buried in Arab countries, including Somalia and Sudan. Doesn't this worry you?

[Hammad] In training courses, no African country has stated that nuclear waste is being buried in its territory. No scientific quarters have announced such a thing. The International Atomic Energy Agency has not recorded anything. Naturally, such a thing worries me, but I have no definite information that it is happening.

[AL-SAFIR] Undoubtedly, we need an ambitious program to restore the atomic energy balance in the Middle East. Do we have such a program?

[Hammad] This is actually what we are striving to do by modernizing our old installations, building new ones, and using atomic energy in the field of agriculture, industry, technology, and monitoring radiation.

[AL-SAFIR] However, this program did not prevent the nuclear leak in the Negev desert. It also failed to detect it properly.

[Hammad] We monitored this leak immediately after it occurred. Our devices monitored it before it was announced by the Israeli authorities. It was, in fact, a limited leak. All reports about the damage it could cause to the soil, atmosphere, and underground water in Sinai were incorrect.

Libya

Sudanese, Chadian Officials Visit

Received by al-Qadhdhafi

LD1108203293 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received today al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, member of the Revolution Command Council in sisterly Sudan, and the delegation accompanying him.

The brother leader also received Mahamat 'Ali 'Abdallah, military adviser to the President of Chad, and the delegation accompanying him.

Meet With Colonel Jabir

LD1008122293 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir [member of the Revolution Command Council] met today with brother Mahamat 'Ali 'Abdallah, the military adviser to the Chadian president, and delegation accompanying him. They are currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah. Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir has also met with al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, member of the Revolution Command Council in sisterly Sudan.

Sudan

IMF Suspends Sudan's Right to Vote

EA1108192693 Khartoum SUNA in English 1842 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Aug (SUNA)—The World Bank has agreed to continue financing a number of development projects in the Sudan after the Sudan had resumed repaying its debts to the bank. The total sum that the bank has allocated for the said projects totals 14 million dollars.

Finance Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi, upon arrival from Washington Tuesday [10 August] where he took part in the International Monetary Fund's [IMF] meetings that discussed the arrears of Sudan to the fund and the possibility of suspending Sudan's membership in the fund, said that the meeting decided suspending Sudan's right of voting for six months after which it will be reconsidered.

Hamdi emphasised that the decision will not affect the Sudan practically because the IMF has previously adopted a resolution in 1986 declaring Sudan as a non-cooperative country.

Hamdi said that he does not expect the decision to affect the relations between the Sudan and the other donor funds because the Sudan still retains membership of the IMF. He said the decision only suspended voting right but Sudan is still represented in the IMF meetings by a delegate who is not a commissioner.

He explained that the decision was based on the inability of Sudan to repay its arrears to the IMF but he said the political factor was clear in the voting process.

The minister further said that the Sudan's delegation had explained through a memorandum and an address presented during the meeting the achievements of the national salvation revolution in the economic field and the circumstances that prevented the Sudan from repaying its arrears effectively.

He pointed out that (?17) of the meeting countries including the industrialised countries in America and Europe voted for the decision while France, China, Russia and the majority of the developing countries voted against it. The minister concluded that a technical committee from the IMF will arrive in the country for regular consultations.

Government Said To Use Schools To Train 'Extremists'

NC1208053493 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 Aug 93 p 9

[Text] Sudanese opposition sources in Cairo have disclosed that the Sudanese Government has introduced new methods for training Arab and Sudanese extremists in Sudan. Majouk Ayom, representative of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement in the Middle East, has affirmed that the government is using more than 60 schools throughout Sudan as a cover for training extremists on armed actions.

He said that the Sudanese authorities have prepared theoretical studies for the extremists based on concepts contradicting the tolerance of Islam. Ayom noted that the Sudanese extremists undergo special courses to convince them to launch war against the southerners, using the pretext of waging jihad on atheists.

Khartoum Denies Participation in Southern Fighting

PM1208081693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Aug 93 p 1

['Umar Muhammad al-Hasan report: "Khartoum Has Not Regained Southern Positions"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum, Washington—Sources close to the Sudanese Army General Command have denied reports that the army had recaptured the town of Kaya on the border with Uganda and had launched an offensive on the border area. They emphasized that "the Armed Forces are fully committed to the cease-fire decision."

The sources told AL-HAYAH yesterday that reports of large numbers of people taking refuge across the Ugandan border are a result of "fierce fighting currently raging between wings of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] which were originally present in that area." They added that the fighting hindered the delivery of 153 tonnes of food prepared by the government for the relief of suffering people in the region. They pointed out that the failure of the relief operation, despite the SPLM leadership's approval of it, "confirms that that leadership has no control over the military groups in the region." They also said that forces of Colonel John Garang, leader of SPLM's "main trend," frequently interfered with the routine activities of the Armed Forces, violating the cease-fire which has been in effect since last March.

Meanwhile, a U.S. official in Washington confirmed that Khartoum has informed the U.S. State Department that it was not a party to the current fighting in the south. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

President Announces Governors Corps Shakeup

LD1108181493 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this afternoon met at Carthage Palace with Abdallah Kallel, minister of state and interior minister, in the presence of Prime Minister Hamed Karoui. Following the meeting, the minister of state announced that his excellency the president decided to carry out a transfer move in the governors corps as follows:

He appointed Salah Jouini Wali, governor of Kairouan, and Brahim Frigui, governor of Tozeur.

The following have been transferred:

Mabrouk Bahri from the Kasserine governorate to Ben Arous governorate, performing the same functions; Hedi Ayach from Beja governorate to Mahdia governorate, performing the same functions; Sadok Marzoug from Siliana governorate to Beja governorate, performing the same functions; Slaheddine Labed from Jendouba governorate to Gabes governorate, performing the same functions; Ridha Mokrani from Mahdia governorate to Siliana governorate, performing the same functions; Mohamed Belguith from Tozeur governorate to Jendouba governorate, performing the same functions; and Kacem Salah from Ben Arous governorate to Kasserine governorate, performing the same functions.

Moncef Louati and Noureddine Hassi will be invited to perform other responsibilities.

Kuwait

TASS Reports Shooting Incident on Kuwait-Iraq Border

LD1108113593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0934 GMT 11 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Yelistratov]

[Text] Cairo August 11 TASS—Kuwaiti security forces thwarted on Tuesday an attempt by an Iraqi saboteur group to infiltrate the emirate. According to the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry, several Iraqi troops crossed the demilitarised zone established between the two countries by a U.N. decision after the Persian Gulf war and approached a Kuwaiti border post.

Fire was opened on the saboteurs. One Iraqi soldier wounded in a leg was taken prisoner.

Yemen

Premier, Officials Discuss Reforms in Armed Forces

JN1108161693 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas today met with Defense Minister brother Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir and the Defense Ministry and General Staff commanders. He discussed the importance of starting the immediate reform and reorganization of the Yemeni Armed Forces, in light of the instructions of the chairman of the Presidential Council, the government policy statement, the House of Representatives' response to it, and the document presented by the brother defense minister on the reforms' objectives and trends and the reorganization of the Armed Forces.

The brother prime minister affirmed that reforming and reorganizing the Armed Forces in a new and responsible manner will contribute to and reflect positively on rectifying the economic and (?administrative) situation in other state departments and institutions. He indicated that this fact places heavy responsibilities on the commanders and personnel of the Defense Ministry to carry out the reforms and reorganization tasks. He stressed the importance of reinforcing the Armed Forces' unity and national cohesion to defend the homeland and its sovereignty, to contribute to achieving political tasks, and to defending the gains of the revolution and the democratic unity.

The brother prime minister entrusted the Defense Ministry with preparing a schedule of priorities and the implementation of this (?task) in accordance with the aforementioned documents. The timetable should be presented to the Council of Ministers within one week for approval and the immediate start of the implementation of the specified tasks and duties.

The brother prime minister affirmed the government's eagerness to extend complete support to bolster the Armed Forces' capabilities to enable them to carry out their national tasks.

Defense Minister Inaugurates Training Simulator

JN1108180193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] The Air Defense Institute today celebrated the graduation of two courses: the ninth squadron commanders course and the second staff air defense officers course, which were named the courses of jihad and construction. Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of defense, attended the graduation ceremony.

The faculty council of the Air Defense Institute unanimously granted Fighter Gen. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid an honorary high diploma in advanced air defense sciences in recognition and appreciation of the role he is playing to promote the institute and the Air Defense Corps to help it accomplish its task of defending the homeland's airspace.

In a related development, the Defense Minister inaugurated a training simulator built by inventive Iraqi experts working at the institute in cooperation with specialized departments at the Ministry of Defense.

Fighter Staff Gen. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid wrote some words in the institute's register, paying tribute to the efforts being made by the commanders, instructors, and personnel affiliated with the Air Defense Institute. He also praised the role the institute's creative engineering cadres have played in rebuilding a training simulator, using the Iraqi method of management, due to the continued embargo imposed on mujahid Iraq. He valued their work, which has epitomized their high morale as well as the inventiveness demonstrated by the genuine Iraqi mind in times of distress.

Domestic Industry Boosts Import Substitution, Savings

JN1108165093 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 11 (INA)—The Ministry of Industry and Minerals has saved the country some 83 million dollars over the past six months by manufacturing and repairing equipment and spare parts.

Mr. 'Adnan 'Abd-al Majid Jasm, undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and head of the Industry Supreme Commission, said that this forms 175 per cent of the sum saved during the first half of 1992 when 47,695,000 dollars was saved, he said.

Mr. Jasim expressed appreciation of the efforts exerted by workshops and departments of the ministry to find alternatives and rely on locally-made materials to make up for the hardships created by the trade sanctions imposed on the country.

The technicians manufactured about 319,554 parts this year, relying on local potentials.

Earlier, Minister of Industry and Minerals 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di [said] staffers of his ministry have saved the country 300 million dollars during the period 1990 to 1992. They have manufactured 1,092,330 spare parts and repaired many out-of-order machinery since the imposition of the blockade on Iraq in August, 1990.

The National Company for Chemical and Plastic Industries, a mixed sector firm, has saved the country some ten million dollars.

The company conducted research on locally-produced materials used in the company's products, chief among which is plastic boxes. Previously, the company used to import its needs of such items.

The Vegetable Oil Department has saved the country some 34.5 million dollars by increasing its production. Among the products are liquid cooking oil in five-kg cans and plastic containers of one litre. One hundred per cent sunflower oil is used in this product.

The liquid detergent "Zahi" is produced in accordance with international specifications. The department produces three cosmetic products: "Adam" shaving cream with a rich lather, "Amber" tooth-paste, and hair shampoos. It also produces detergent powders and soaps.

Meanwhile, the Cotton Industry Industry Department has produced several kinds of textiles of special specifications, saving the country some 32 million dollars: the fabric used for military uniform would cost 10,000 dollars if imported so, staff of the department manufactured alternatives for the imported material at a total cost of ID [Iraqi Dinar] 4,000 only. Among other products manufactured by the department are poplin, flannel fabric, canvas, filter fabric, bag fabric, photo emulsion, cylindrical plastic as well as sewing threads.

The construction material industry department has managed to prepare spare parts for the factories to make for the imported ones.

Among materials provided by the department are clay bricks, thermostone blocks, plastic pipes and tiles, ready concrete, marble, sand and gravel.

The Silk Industry Department has saved the country some five million dollars by producing raw materials. The department comprises three factories. But, only two of them are functioning. "If the third one is reoperated, the money saved can be raised to some 11 million dollars annually", a source of the department said.

Prime Minister Cables Saddam on Wheat, Barley Harvest

JN1108174993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Aug 93

["Text" of cable from Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, "member of the Revolution Command Council, prime minister, and chairman of the Higher Commission for the Harvest and Marketing Campaign", to President

Saddam Husayn on the end of the wheat and barley harvest campaign in Iraq; date not given]

[Text] Your Excellency Leader President Saddam Husayn: May God protect you. It pleases and honors me to relay to you the glad tidings pertaining to the end of the wheat and barley harvest campaign in Baghdad and Iraqi governorates on 9 August 1993. The accomplishment of this national task, under the hard circumstances being experienced by our country, would have been impossible, had it not been for your excellency's constant support, and also for the noble gestures you have made to farmers, supervisors, and harvest owners—gestures that have provided them with great incentives and prompted them to make additional efforts to speed up the pace of work and reduce waste. Our motto in this national campaign has been that each grain of wheat collected will be a bullet fired on the enemy's head, as well as a pillar of support that will enhance our people's steadfastness in the face of the imperialist-Zionist onslaught and help break the unfair embargo imposed on Iraqis.

Mr. Inspired Leader: Once your excellency issued the order to form the Higher Commission for the Harvest and Marketing Campaign, your good sons sought God's help, mobilized all their potentials, and worked day and night to accomplish this national task. Subcommittees as well as field committees were formed for this purpose. Moreover, two operations rooms were established to supervise this campaign and follow it up: one at the Ministry of Agriculture and the other at the Ministry of Trade.

Your Excellency the Leader President: The start of the harvest campaign was delayed this year due to weather conditions and also because of the shortage of harvesters, given the large areas planted. Nonetheless, several governorates accomplished the harvest campaign earlier than scheduled, thanks to the concerted efforts made by the good people at the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Trade, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Oil, the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, the Ministry of Interior, the Military Industrialization Organization, the General Federation of Peasants Cooperative Societies, and other competent agencies.

Also, the governors played a prominent role in supervising and monitoring the campaign. For the first time, our Ba'thist comrades took part in the campaign. They were deployed in the field around all harvesters and at all reception centers so they could follow up on the campaign and supervise it on the ground. Thus, we appreciate their efforts.

Some 3,129 harvesters took part in the mechanical harvest campaign. Some 820 harvesters were transported from northern governorates to southern governorates for this purpose. Moreover, 652 harvesters were transported from the central and southern governorates to the northern governorates in the course of this campaign. For the first time, trains as well as trucks belonging to the General Corporation for Land Transport were used to transport harvesters. This effort met with great success. The Higher Commission managed to resolve many obstacles encountered during this campaign through direct supervision of harvest operations, and also through field visits to all Iraqi governorates, during which meetings were held with the officials in charge of the campaign.

Mr. Beloved Leader: On this blessed occasion, I cannot but salute each hand that contributed to collecting the harvest needed by our great people. I would like to renew to your excellency, in my name and on behalf of my comrades, members of the Higher Commission for the Harvest and Marketing Campaign, the pledge to remain loyal soldiers, ready to implement your orders to serve our great people. I wish your excellency a long life and continued good health so that the banner of God is Great may continue to wave aloft in your land.

It is God who grants success.

[Signed] Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, chairman of the Higher Commission for the Harvest and Marketing Campaign

Construction of New Baghdad University Planned

JN1108202593 Baghdad INA in English 1753 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 10 (INA)—Constructions will start in Baghdad to build a new university that will be named Al-Rashid University.

Higher education and scientific research under secretary, Dr Sabri Radif al-'Ani told INA that the new university will have the capacity of about 15 thousand students and will include of all kinds of scientific and humanism studies.

He added that the construction of its buildings will start soon and will be located in a Baghdad suburb.

It is worth noting that at present there are three state universities in Baghdad as well as a number of private universities.

Opposition Radio Claims Regime Harassing 'Aziz

JN1108195493 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources cite statements by Tariq Hanna 'Aziz, deputy prime minister of the Saddamist regime, that show the dilemma the [words indistinct] the tyrant after he had moved them like chess pawns for many years.

The sources said the servile Tariq Hanna 'Aziz [words indistinct] the harrassment he is being exposed to from those close to the head of the oppressive regime. The sources cite 'Aziz as saying that when he asked that the Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary or the ambassador of the despot in the Italian capital accompany him during his meeting with the UN secretrary general, he

was surprised to find that an intelligence officer with no political experience had been been appointed to accompany him in these talks.

The Iraqi opposition sources, continuing to cite Tariq Hanna 'Aziz, said a scholarship for the wife of his son, Ziyad, was cancelled by the competent authorities. A request he submitted to allow his family to leave for France on holiday has been rejected, although he had obtained the necessary visas.

What this servile Saddamist pawn is being exposed to is the natural result of his failed attempts to end the regime's isolation through his good relations and visits and the exposed bargaining with the quarters of world arrogance in the United States and the West.

Saddam Cables King Husayn on Accession Anniversary

JN1108121293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to his brother, His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, on the anniversary of his majesty's accession to the throne.

The cable says: On the anniversary of your accession to the throne, we are pleased to extend to your majesty our best congratulations and sincerest brotherly wishes.

We beseech God Almighty to grant you continued good health, happiness, and a long life. We also wish the fraternal Arab Jordanian people more progress and prosperity, and the true fraternal relations between Iraq and Jordan continued growth and development in the interest of our two fraternal peoples and our glorious Arab nation.

Saddam Receives Sudanese Education, Justice Ministers

JN1108184393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] His Excellency Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has received Sudanese Minister of Justice 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abdallah Shiddu and Sudanese Minister of Education 'Abd-al-Basit Salih Sabdarat.

Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abdallah relayed to his excellency the president a verbal message from his brother Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, dealing with the strong fraternal ties existing between the two fraternal countries and issues of common interest.

'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abdallah conveyed to his excellency the president the greetings of the Sudanese president, government, and people, as well as their wishes of continued good health and success for him, and of further progress and prosperity to the Iraqi people.

'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abdallah and 'Abd-al-Basit Salih affirmed Sudan's solidarity with Iraq in its defiance of the unfair embargo imposed on it for the past three years.

For his part, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn asked the two Sudanese ministers to relay his greetings to his brother Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, as well as his wishes of happiness and success for the Sudanese Government and the fraternal Sudanese people.

The meeting was attended by Education Minister Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz and Justice Minister Shabib Lazim al-Maliki.

Information Minister Meets French Solidarity Delegation

JN1108180693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi today met with a delegation of the French-Arab Solidarity Society led by Hashimi Banani. The minister told the delegation that Iraq values the efforts the society has made to aid the Iraqis' steadfastness. During the meeting, they exchanged views on the best means of explaining Iraq's position in France.

For his part, Hashimi Banani expressed his admiration of the Iraqis' steadfastness. He also appreciated their determination to forge ahead toward a free and decent life. He affirmed that he and the delegation members will do their best to acquaint the French public with the legitimate Iraqi position.

Rabin on Future of Peace Process, Talks With PLO

TA1108203893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1840 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Studio interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Yoram Ronen, Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir, and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik in the weekly "Moqed" program—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Ronen] Sir, we would now like to discuss issues pertaining to the peace process. Last Thursday [5 August], when Christopher returned from Damascus, you said he brought along certain good news. Almost one week has gone by since then and we have heard nothing, neither good nor bad. Are we to understand that when you said good news you meant that President al-Asad had somewhat begun clarifying how he perceives the substance of peace and that you may have begun clarifying what you have in mind concerning the extent of the withdrawal from the Golan?

[Rabin] Judging by what the Americans say, there is no doubt that something budged during Secretary of State Christopher's latest mission, both with regard to the Syrians' commitment to the peace negotiations and their aspirations to attain peace. Although there has not yet been a breakthrough, the Syrians may very well soften their approach on the substance of peace. I think it has to do with what happened in Lebanon: Our determination, the fact that we made plain to the world at large—and certainly to Lebanon and Syria—that the State of Israel has red lines; that when it comes to the security of its northern settlements we are prepared to stage an operation which nobody expected us to carry out; an astute operation which spared the blood of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and used the IDF's firepower. Understandings were attained which I believe are a test of the other side's credibility, and I told the secretary of state as much to relay to the Arab side. If understandings are not honored, there is no basis for peace.

I believe today there is a greater chance to reach peace. It will not happen tomorrow or the next month, but perhaps within three or four months. There is a chance of advancing toward peace, both by consolidating the stability in Lebanon and by advancing toward peace with the Syrians. When the Palestinians see we are advancing there, progress will also be made with them, on condition that there is a government in Israel that is sufficiently capable and stable to promote this peace.

[Ahime'ir] Sir, almost two years have elapsed since the Madrid formula began materializing. Is there any sense in pursuing the talks in Washington, which are not advancing very fast, or would you rather switch to direct or indirect contacts—as those conducted by Secretary Christopher—with heads of state?

[Rabin] I think we should keep a variety of forms of contact and dialogue between us and the Arab partners to the peace talks. We must uphold the Madrid framework and the structure of the talks in Washington, but not as the only tool. To this day, from the armistice agreements in 1949 until the Madrid conference, no agreement has been attained without U.S. involvement which peaked in the peace treaty with Egypt. Al-Sadat came to Jerusalem, Begin went to Ismailia, but nothing came out of it until Carter summoned them to Camp David, and locked them there for 13 days. Would you call those direct talks? The Americans went back and forth reaching understandings. Even before the peace treaty was signed, Carter had to get on a plane, fly to Cairo, attend a cabinet session in Jerusalem, and fly back to Cairo.

We must keep a variety of forms of talks and we must uphold the U.S. involvement. No agreement, either comprehensive or limited, has ever been attained between the Arab world and Israel without U.S. involvement.

[Ahime'ir] Sir, did you relay a request to confer with President al-Asad through Secretary Christopher?

[Rabin] No, I did not make such a request. However, I said it was inconceivable that we should attain a peace treaty, regardless of its terms, and not have it signed by the heads of the executive branches of the two states.

[Ahime'ir] And before a treaty is signed?

[Rabin] I did not make such a request.

[Sukenik] I listened to your reply and I did not understand what kind of messages were exchanged between yourself and al-Asad through Christopher. What you are saying has to do more with matters of atmosphere and Syrian wishes, but they had said as much in the past. For example, did you gather from the information relayed from Damascus that al-Asad is willing to accept what you want; that is, full normalization between the two countries and not just a perfunctory peace?

[Rabin] I cannot answer this question with a categorical yes. Anybody who thinks that serious negotiations can be held today in front of the media is wrong. Negotiations have never been conducted that way. In Camp David, too, a complete blackout was imposed on the talks whose intensity was unprecedented, not to mention all the contacts that preceded it. Therefore, I do not think I can say certain things for a fact today. The Americans have gathered some impressions, which I will not make public as long as I am not sure that they are true for a fact and that they are compatible with what I think Israel should accept in exchange for full peace.

[Sukenik] Could the matter possibly be concluded this year, as Christopher wants and you predicted?

[Rabin] I very much hope so.

[Ronen] Even though less than five months remain before the end of the year?

[Rabin] Indeed.

[Ronen] Sir, I would like to ask you about the contacts with the PLO. It was officially confirmed today by your bureau that you knew in advance of the meeting between Minister Yosi Sarid and Nabil Sha'th, a leading PLO member. On the one hand you say you object to contacts with PLO leaders, while on the other hand you told Yosi Sarid you had no objection to him meeting them. Perhaps, this is a way of breaking the ground for a possible meeting in the future between yourself and PLO leaders, perhaps even with 'Arafat himself.

[Rabin] Forget it, definitely not in the foreseeable future.

[Ronen] Perhaps not at this point, but at a later stage.

[Ahime'ir] Excuse me, could this happen in the three years left until the end of your term as prime minister?

[Rabin] I hope not. Moreover, I believe the negotiations should be conducted with the Palestinian delegation made up of inhabitants of the territories. However, between you and me, let us speak the truth. The time has come for the Israeli people to know the truth, once and for all. Would the Madrid Conference have convened without the PLO's approval? Have the negotiations since the Madrid Conference to this day, either under the Likud government or my government, been conducted with a Palestinian delegation that did not receive fax and telephone messages and instructions from Tunis? Nevertheless, I still have faith in this formula. A conflict has erupted. The inhabitants of the territories would prefer what the Americans term early empowerment [previous two words in English], which is what we proposed: Handing power over to them to run their own affairs even before an agreement in principle has been reached on an interim arrangement. In contrast, the PLO wants to set a foothold in Gaza, and to that end it is prepared to be more flexible on the question of the settlements and perhaps even on the issue of Jerusalem. There is a conflict here between the people inside and outside the territories.

[Ronen] Do they want Gaza and Jericho or just Gaza?

[Rabin] They apparently want more than that.

[Ronen] Do you agree to Jericho?

[Rabin] I am not giving anything yet because nothing has yet been agreed. I am just trying to analyze the problem. That is why I believe we should act in two directions, the Syrian-Lebanese and the Palestinian-Jordanian. We must analyze the situation and not rush. I will not prevent a cabinet minister who wants to meet somebody in the PLO from doing so, but I do not think that is positive. Therefore, with regard to all the meetings that have taken place, I stated from the outset that they were not my idea and they did not reflect my position.

[Ronen] Have there been or will there be any more such meetings between other cabinet ministers and PLO men?

[Rabin] I do not know.

[Sukenik] Is there no form of mediation between yourself and the Palestinians?

[Rabin] Cabinet ministers talk and, to judge by what you say, they do not exactly speak my mind on legal matters. I know this is a complex and pluralistic cabinet, but one thing must be clear: The test is that it must implement its decisions once it makes them. At this stage, this government—all nuances notwithstanding—has done what it promised the public to do in the security, political, and domestic arenas and in changing the national order of priorities.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, we have many questions to ask you but unfortunately our time is up. I would like to thank you for coming to our studio, my colleagues Ya'aqov Ahime'ir and Gadi Sukenik, and our spectators. Good night.

Aloni Meeting With PLO Official Confirmed

TA1208104093 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 Aug p 7

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Excerpt] Shulamit Aloni, the minister of communications, science, and technology, secretly met with Palestinian poet Muhammad Darwish, head of PLO Executive Committee's culture department. The meeting took place several months ago in a West European capital, apparently in Paris, where Darwish resides. The meeting has been secret until now.

Aloni did not inform Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of her intention to meet Darwish, although he was notified upon her return. Last night, Aloni reacted by saying: "I am in shock. Only one person knew about that meeting. It was not held with Rabin's knowledge, nor was the meeting planned. There was nothing to report about either." Aloni claimed that she had been under no obligation to notify the prime minister of her intention to meet with Darwish. Nevertheless, Aloni explained that her meeting with Darwish had not been planned and was not the same as Environment Minister Sarid's and Knesset Member Dedi Zucker's meeting with Nabil Sha'th in Cairo.

Sources at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday confirmed that they knew about Aloni's meeting with Darwish, noting that Rabin had no intention of commenting on the matter. [passage omitted]

Basyuni Expects Declarations by End of Year

TA1208080893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, has expressed the assessment that Israel will sign a joint declaration of principles with Syria, the Palestinians, Jordan, and Lebanon by the end of the year. The ambassador believes that the crisis in the Palestinian delegation

is only temporary. At any rate, Basyuni added, they have the right to choose their own representatives.

Ambassador Basyuni said that the important thing was what the Palestinian delegates were saying, rather than the composition of the delegation. Basyuni asserted that it was preferable to negotiate with those capable of making decisions.

Our correspondent Rina Matzliah reports that the ambassador was speaking at a meeting with a delegation from the United Jewish Appeal [UJA], which is now visiting Elat. The UJA delegates will meet with Egyptian businessmen at Tabah, and Ambassador Basyuni claimed that this was an example of the positive atmosphere in the region that could lead to greater economic prosperity.

Half of Deportees To Be Allowed To Return in September

NC1208072693 Paris AFP in English 0658 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Aug 12 (AFP)—About half of the 396 Palestinian deportees still stranded in southern Lebanon can return to the occupied territories in mid-September, a defence ministry spokesman said Thursday [12 August].

Between 60 and 80 of the men will have served their nine-month period in exile on September 17, spokesman Oded Ben Ami told AFP.

And another 121 deportees, who could have returned home by May under a deal brokered by the United States, have now asked to come back. They refused at first insisting that all the Palestinians exiled last December 17 must return en masse, in accordance with U.N. resolution 799.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, 66 deportees will have served their time by next month. The ICRC is trying to organise with the Israeli authorities the repatriation of the 121 and the 66.

The last group of deportees will be allowed back after one year, on December 17, Ben Ami said.

Upon return, Israel will jail those who were in prison when expelled, resume investigations against those who were in detention and free the others.

A series of killings culminating in the kidnapping and murder by Islamic fundamentalists of a policeman led Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to expel more than 400 Palestinians.

Yaqazah Party Head on Domestic Issues, Confederation

JN1208080893 Amman THE STAR in English 12-18 Aug 93 p 5

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, secretary general of the al-Yaqazah [Awakening] Party, by Ra'id al-'Abid; place and date not given]

[Text] [Al-'Abid] What is the your party's philosophy?

[Al-Rawabidah] Al-Yaqazah is a party with a program. Its philosophy is the core of human intellect. It (the party) aims to reform the homeland. We believe that the human being is the essence of existence and that the resources of the world are there to serve him and that freedom is the path by which man defines his place and his relations with others and that's why a person's freedom ends when the freedom of others begins. We believe that the ideal state is the one that is set up on the rule of the law, which it respects, and which considers everyone as equal. This state believes in parliamentary democracy, in political pluralism, in education and organization as a style of leadership.

We also believe that Jordanian national identity is an undisputed right to every Jordanian regardless of his origin, color, religion or creed. We believe that stressing this identity is the only way to formulate a model homeland that will constitute a stepping stone towards the inevitable, that of Arab unity.

We believe that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is one of fate and common destiny and that the duty of liberating Palestine must be adopted by every Arab and Muslim through Jihad (holy war). The Jordanian-Palestinian unity has deep historical roots which has been severed only between 1920 and 1950. At this stage also we believe that the only way to achieve such a unity is through having a federal system.

[Al-'Abid] But where do you see your party positioned on the political map of Jordan?

[Al-Rawabidah] We are one of the moderate and reformist parties. We are not a religious party, and we are not a nationalist-leftist party. We represent the centrist model.

[Al-'Abid] What are you economic concepts and beliefs?

[Al-Rawabidah] We believe in a mixed economy system, which means that it would be jointly owned by government and private enterprise.

This basically means that the government would control natural resources, minerals and other strategic industries which quite rightly belong to the Umma [nation] while the private sector can control the rest of the economy. We do not ask the state to enter into an industry as a partner or a substitute unless the private sector is unable to do it itself.

[Al-'Abid] With your long government experience, how do you view the problem of unemployment and what solutions do you offer?

[Al-Rawabidah] There is a difference between my experience and that of the party. The party's approach will be published in its (election) program. But I think that unemployment has no magic solution. It requires a long-term (strategy) which includes various investments, retraining of cadres and opening up of new markets. This requires huge funds and time in order to absorb unemployment. That's why we should deal with the problem with care and knowledge far from slogans which end up forcing the state to hire all unemployed thus destroying the national economy.

[Al-'Abid] What is your comment on the results of certain studies which concluded that over 30 percent of Jordanians are below the poverty line?

[Al-Rawabidah] I believe that whoever st..lied the poverty-levels was not precise or that he applied superficial criteria and not those of the poor people. I agree that there is poverty in Jordan, real poverty, but the percentages are exaggerated for reasons beyond me.

There are cases of abject poverty which we need to address with practical solutions that have nothing to do with charity. We could offer long-term soft loans to families that are seeking to work or help them retrain and rehabilitate themselves so that society can be transformed into a productive one, not a consumer society that meets the goals of the international economy which seeks to control the economies of the developing nations.

[Al-'Abid] So how do you feel about Jordan's agreements with the IMF which some describe as unjust, and how do you think these agreements affect our economy?

[Al-Rawabidah] I don't think the IMF imposes unjust conditions. The IMF is not above world countries, because if you need to deal in the international market and you don't need loans then you do not deal with the IMF. But if you need credit, then the creditor must be assured of your present and future performance. Even in our local banking system, a bank would not offer a loan without a collateral or a guarantee. So if there is a substitute to the IMF where we can get soft loans and long-term loans, let's have it.

[Al-'Abid] To what do you attribute the ongoing divisions inside the political parties at this stage of political pluralism?

[Al-Rawabidah] There are three kinds of political parties in Jordan: the Party of the Muslim Brotherhood (Islamic Action Front) [IAF], and that is an organized party with a chain of leadership which has been legally active for 40 years. The Islamic Action Front came about as a result of an agreement between the Muslim Brotherhood and other movements. When these movements found that their role would be ineffective, they left the IAF. The nationalist leftist parties suffered from divisions for 30

years, and these present parties are the result of the divisions that happened within three old parties. Divisions are the nature of these parties. The reformist parties are based on popular groupings that have nothing in common but to group against another group and to serve their own interests. Many people joined these parties not on principle but to find a source of income or position and when they were unable to secure any, they left. Others found that the parties had deviated from their line of principle, and so they left, too. I say to my brothers that party politics is still in its early stages and that it is still evolving until it can dig roots, develop its principles and open up to society. The press should not blow on fire because that will make matters worse.

[Al-'Abid] Are you in favour of amending the Election Law?

[Al-Rawabidah] We are against the one-man-one-vote system, but we are in favor of amending the law so that its regulations concerning registration, voting and widening the voting eligibility, become more efficient. We are against the single vote because we think it will create rifts within the national body at the expense of national body at the expense of national unity.

[Al-'Abid] How prepared are you to contest the next elections, and who do you think is your main competitor?

[Al-Rawabidah] I am ready for elections, but we as a party have not yet decided to run. So we cannot, as a party, single out our main competitor because all parties will complete to win the hearts of the voters.

[Al-'Abid] How do you feel about Jordanian-Palestinian confederation?

[Al-Rawabidah] Calls for such a confederation have been growing lately, and ambiguous statements have been made by the Palestinian leadership calling for a dialogue. There is much ambiguity on the timing of confederation, before or after Palestinian independence. What's new about this issue is that the United States and Israel are now party to Arab unity efforts promoting such a confederation as a way out of the present stalemate in the Palestinian-Israeli talks. That will make the joint confederation authority the responsible party for negotiations and normalization.

Jordan cannot shoulder sole responsibility of the bitter pill of negotiations on her own because of the heavy price that the Arab negotiator will accept the continuation of the occupation of Jerusalem and self-rule for the Palestinian without gaining sovereignty over the Palestinian lands, and to transform the issue of refugees into one of compensations and resettlement. [sentence as published]

The Jordanians will become accessories to the conspiracy of the alternative homeland, which will be carried out gradually. It will be accompanied by the expulsion of Palestinians into Jordan, home of the confederation. This will expand the Israeli area of control to include Jordanian territory in addition to the occupied territories; this will be achieved through the relationship between Israel and the Palestinian self-rule authority on one hand, and the Palestinian self-rule authority and the Jordanian state, through confederation, on the other.

This will transform the Arab-Israeli conflict into a Jordanian-Palestinian one because of the duality of authority in the confederation—each party can veto the other's decisions. Jordan will be responsible for security within the self-rule area and therefore will be made accountable for stifling the Intifadah.

We call for the return of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship to its previous form. We are against separation, and we think federalism is the better formula for a united state because it safegards the unity of authority and state while maintaining the uniqueness of each region. This will open the way for Arab unity. That's why we condemn all calls for confederation before Palestinian statehood.

People's Democratic Party Leader on Election Law

JN1208091593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Aug 93 p 26

[Interview with Taysir al-Zibri, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party, by Nayif al-Muhaysin in Amman—date not given]

[Excerpt] [Al-Muhaysin] Where does your party stand on the existing election law?

[Al-Zibri] Reservations about the elections law have been expressed since its enactment in 1986. We think that, to a certain extent, it still smacks of martial law, and the allocation of seats is unfair. We take exception most to Paragraph D of Article 118 that disqualifies illegal parties from fielding candidates, especially given that the applications for licensing by certain parties have been turned down. Then there is the minimum voting age that was set at 19 years, and which, contrary to the Constitution, disenfranchises hundreds of thousands of the young. This is in addition to bureaucratic complications intrinsic in the registration and voting processes.

As we see it, the ideal approach to closing the loopholes in the existing law is for Jordan to become a single constituency with electoral lists competing for seats on the basis of proportional representation. On the other hand, the proposed switch to the one-person one-vote system would serve to upset the election procedures and give the electorate some rather than all of its rights. This is in addition to the fact that an amendment would intensify sectarianism and parochialism [al-iqlimiyah] and rob homogeneous political forces of the opportunity to put together joint electoral lists. We hope the government will not amend the election law. We are opposed to such an amendment, and will work to mobilize public support and democratic institutions and trade unions on our side to counter the trend toward amendment.

[Al-Muhaysin] Will you field candidates in the coming elections?

[Al-Zibri] That will hinge on which way the proposed amendment goes. We will be looking at our options in concert with other political forces.

[Al-Muhaysin] How much coordination is there between your party and other Jordanian political forces?

[Al-Zibri] We coordinate our moves with other politically like-minded democratic parties on issues of politics and the proposed amendment to the election law. [passage omitted]

Germany Signs Technical, Financial Aid Memorandums

JN1008190793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Three memorandums were signed today by the Jordanian Government and the German Government at the Ministry of Planning. These memorandums stipulate that Germany will provide Jordan with technical assistance. Engineer Yusuf Batshun, director of the International Cooperation Department at the Ministry of Planning, has spoken to our radio on these memorandums. He said:

[Begin Batshun recording] The three memorandums signed today are designed to enable Jordan to receive German technical assistance in various areas. The first memorandum stipulates that the German Government will grant Jordan technical assistance worth 2 million Deutsche marks to aid the vegetable seeds and plants production project, which is currently being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. This aid will be granted to Jordan in the form of providing consultative services, appointing needed experts, securing laboratory materials and various pieces of equipment needed by the project, and providing the training required for several Jordanian experts so they can replace the German experts appointed to work on the project. The aim of this project is to improve vegetable seeds, something which will improve agricultural produce.

According to the second memorandum, the German Government will grant Jordan 3.5 million Deutsche marks to assist data centers in the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and the General Statistics Department, by computerizing the work of these agencies. This objective will be accomplished in cooperation with the National Data Center to produce a full-blown national data system and ensure a smooth flow of information to help decisionmakers in both the public and private sectors. This memorandum provides for the dispatch to Jordan of experts, as well as computer equipment, including both software and hardware. It also provides for training several Jordanian experts in this field.

As for the third memorandum, it stipulates that Germany will grant Jordan technical assistance worth 800,000 Deutsche marks to finance consultative services for the benefit of the Jordan Valley Authority. This grant will be used to finance the appointment of some necessary experts at the Jordan Valley Authority, and provide training to some Jordanian experts. This grant will also finance the purchase of some equipment required by the authority. Of course, this memorandum aims to aid the work of the Jordan Valley Authority, which is irrigating the valley. [end recording]

Japanese Foreign Ministry Official Arrives For Talks

JN1108201893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Toshinori Fujii, deputy director general of the Middle East and Africa Bureau at the Japanese Foreign Ministry, arrived in Amman this evening on a three-day official visit to Jordan. Fujii will hold talks with several Jordanian officials on a number of regional and international issues of mutual interest, as well as bilateral relations and ways of promoting them.

He was welcomed by a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Cabinet Dismisses Minister Afram, Appoints Jean 'Ubayd

NC1108193393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] The cabinet has dismissed Minister George Afram and appointed Jean 'Ubayd in his place as minister of state.

The dismissal decree carried No. 3921 and was issued by the president and the prime minister.

The dismissal came during a cabinet session held today. The session was followed by a meeting between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, after which the decrees of dismissal and appointment were issued.

Minister Afram had earlier lodged a complaint with the State Consultative Council, describing the government decree that moved him from the post of minister of resources to minister of state as unconstitutional.

Further on Dismissal

NC1208073393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents, after cabinet meeting held under President Ilyas al-Hirawi on 11 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Samahah] The cabinet held an ordinary meeting under his excellency the president of the Republic. The president opened the meeting by reviewing the aid the Higher Relief Committee has received from fraternal and friendly countries and international organizations in response to Lebanon's appeal for aid following the recent Israeli aggression. At the proposal of the president, the cabinet decided to convey appreciation and gratitude for the relief aid to southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa'.

Whereas Minister George Afram's complaint lodged with the State Consultative Council regarding the issuance of decree No. 3602 on 11 June 1993 is contrary to the truth, to the minutes of the cabinet meeting that preceded the issuance of the decree, and to the reasons which led to the issuance of the decree, the cabinet decided to relieve Minister George Afram from his post, that is to dismiss him.

The cabinet then discussed the agenda and decided to place a plot of land at the disposal of the General Labor Federation to build a permanent headquarters. It also decided to form a committee composed of Ministers Bahij Tabbarah, Faris Buwayz, Mikha'il al-Dahir, and Anwar al-Khalil to draft a bill on the formation of a Diplomatic Fund. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Samahah] The Army deployment is fully in line with the mission defined by the cabinet. We have never been and will not be a policeman to protect the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon.

[Announcer] Following the cabinet meeting, President al-Hirawi met with Prime Minister al-Hariri and Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr. Following the 30-minute meeting, a decree was issued dismissing Minister George Afram and another decree was issued appointing Jean 'Ubayd in his place.

Prime Minister Denies Reports of Cabinet Reshuffle

PM1108153693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Aug 93 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-Hariri Denies Any Cabinet Reshuffle Intention"]

[Excerpt] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Sources close to Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri have told AL-HAYAH that there is no intention of making any cabinet changes or reshuffle in the current circumstances. They denied yesterday's press reports claiming that the issue was raised. They said that the aim of any talk about cabinet changes or reshuffle is to create confusion in the country.

The sources quoted Prime Minister al-Hariri as saying: "The government has emerged from the serious crisis resulting from the Israeli aggression against Lebanon more cohesive and cooperative. The people felt the existence of the government because of its quick reaction to the results of the aggression. So why talk about change and reshuffle?" [passage omitted]

Family of Muhammad Hammadi Raises Health Concerns

NC1208051993 Paris AFP in English 2317 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Beirut, Aug 12 (AFP)—The family of Muhammad Hammadi, a Lebanese man jailed for life in Germany for involvement in the hijacking of an American airliner, Wednesday expressed concern about his state of health and appealed to Syria and Iran to work for his release.

In a statement issued here the family said it had received official documents attesting to a "continuing deterioration" in the health of Muhammad Hammadi, aged 28.

The documents "lead us to believe that there is a deliberate intention to cause him physical damage, to prevent him returning to a normal life," the family said.

The family thanked Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Lebanese officials for having helped secure the release of Muhammad's brother 'Abbas from a German prison last Friday, and urged them to "continue their efforts" on behalf of Muhammad.

Muhammad Hammadi was jailed for life in 1989 for participating in the hijacking of a Trans World Airlines (TWA) jet over Beirut in 1985, during which a passenger was killed.

Germany expelled 'Abbas Hammadi, 32, to Lebanon after he had served half of a 13-year prison sentence for possession of explosives and involvement in the kidnapping of German nationals in Lebanon.

Two More Saudi Aid Planes Arrive; Efforts Praised

LD1008192093 Riyadh SPA in English 1910 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Beirut, Aug 10, SPA—Three Saudi planes landed at Beirut airport on Tuesday [10 August] carrying additional assistance materials ordered by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to lessen sufferings of the displaced persons and victims of Israel's recent shelling of south Lebanon.

With the arrival of the three planes, which are carrying medicines and food materials, the number of Saudi planes which are moved for this purpose in Beirut since the start of the airlift totaled 31.

The Saudi aid consignment was handed over to the concerned Lebanese authorities.

Meanwhile, the Beirut-based AL-LIWA newspaper, on Tuesday commended Saudi Arabia's noble assistance for Lebanon.

"The noble initiative of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to send the urgent assistance for the victims of the Israeli bombardment, clearly shows that the kingdom never hesitates to provide such brotherly assistance for sister and friendly states whenever it is necessary. It could also be considered as a material evidence of the Saudi support for Arab and Islamic states and peoples," the paper said.

The paper also lauded the kingdom's leading role in restoring peace and stability in Lebanon after years of civil war.

Al-Asad: U.S. Tacitly Agrees to Lebanese Right To Resist

NC1208061993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has stressed that he wrested from the Americans a tacit acknowledgment that the Lebanese have the right to resist to liberate their land from Israeli occupation. In an interview with the newspaper AL-SAFIR, al-Asad said: There was no deal. We were very frank and clear—no relinquishment of the resistance; this is an absolute right for anyone whose land is occupied. Al-Asad went on to say: The agreement was very specific and limited: If the Israeli aggression stops, the katyusha rockets will stop. He emphasized that the katyusha was used as a response. Contrary to what the Israelis tried to tell the world, the katyusha was not the cause but the excuse.

Al-Asad said: We clearly informed the Americans of our stand. We will not complete this march under the pressure of Israeli guns. Rather, persistence in aggression could create a new situation, the results of which would be difficult to control. We will not be able to exercise endless self-restraint. We cannot turn a blind eye to what is happening. What affects Lebanon affects us.

Al-Asad stressed the need to preserve and protect the resistance. He described the U.S. broker as the available broker and not an ally; it is even a friend of the enemy. It is true we must try to make it adopt a neutral stand, through addressing its threatened interests and not through the illusion that we will attract it to our side.

U.S. Said Seeking Removal of Syria, Libya From Terrorist List

JN1008144493 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 8 Aug 93 p 24

[Text] Cairo—AL-ITTIHAD—Informed Arab sources in Cairo have told AL-ITTIHAD that high-level diplomatic and political contacts have been held among a number of Arab capitals and Washington to lift Syria and Libya from the list of countries sponsoring terrorism prepared annually by the U.S. State Department.

The sources said that the issue of lifting Syria and Libya from the list was prominent in U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Alexandria, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and Syrian officials during his tour of the region.

The sources added that Christopher promised the Syrian and Egyptian leaderships that he will do what he can, beginning early next month, to lift the two countries from the terrorist list. He also said he will submit a detailed report to U.S. President Bill Clinton noting the Arab countries' desire to establish good relations with the U.S. Administration, especially after Syria and Libya voiced readiness to receive any U.S. missions to verify the two countries' intention to renounce and contain terrorism. The sources said Christopher showed enthusiasm for taking serious steps toward Syria, but he said the Libyan request will not be considered until the efforts of the United Nations and Secretary General Butrus-Ghali on the Lockerbie issue come to a conclusion. The Egyptian leadership told the U.S. secretary of state that lifting Libya and Syria from the list of states sponsoring terrorism will substantially boost the peace negotiations, resolve the Libyan-Western crisis, and rectify many aspects of the Arab-U.S. relations.

Peace Process Hinges on 'Changes' in Israeli Position

JN1108155293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The U.S. Department of State has announced that it intends to send out invitations to an 11th round of bilateral negotiations in Washington to be held at the end of this month or the beginning of next month. As usual, the Arab response and any decision to participate will be made by Arab foreign ministers during the coordination meeting held typically held each round and before the next one. These meetings assess previous achievements and consolidate positions on future negotiations.

As we wait for this meeting, which is supposed to be held in Beirut, we must mention several issues of relevance for the proposed upcoming round of talks. An ordinary observer can notice the intensified contacts that are preceding the proposed date of the next bilateral talks. These contacts include meetings by the active U.S. partner with senior regional officials. These meetings are designed to foster an appropriate atmosphere and put the peace process back on the right track after it was derailed by Israeli hostility in the seven-day operation against Lebanon. These meetings also intend to engender momentum in the bilateral talks, bringing them out of their stalemate of the last 10 rounds.

This unusual U.S. diplomatic activity, which may continue until the proposed date for the resumption of talks, is supposed to provide the next round with arrangements that will allow it to achieve better results and make some progress on the road to peace.

It is known that achieving progress depends on the extent of change that develops in the Israeli position. Due to its insincerity about the peace process, Israel has prevented progress at the talks. One hopes that through its contacts and tours, the active U.S. partner will succeed in changing the Israeli position. Otherwise, not only the fate of the next round will be surrounded with skepticism, but so will the fate of the entire peace process.

One element that undoubtedly continues to bring momentum to the negotiations is the continued coordination among the Arabs. By their seriousness and their sincere desire for peace, the Arab's foiled Israel's chance

to undermine the process. During the 20 months since the process began, the Arabs have proved that their adherence to peace is as strong as their adhernece to Arab rights and territories.

Coordination and harmony among Arab parties, not to mention the self-evident harmony within each party, has already contributed to the exposure of Israel's maneuvering and its insincere position on peace. This coordination is required. It must be reinforced, now more than ever, in order to block Israel's path. The Israeli side will certainly develop maneuvers in response to the preparations seeking to make the next round of negotiations successful. As we have noted, there are still no signs that Israel has abandoned its previous stands aimed at obstructing the negotiations.

Just as Arab concern about the peace process is evident in the serious Arab approach to the process, Arab commitment to Arab rights and territories should be embodied by reinforcing Arab solidarity and coordination and unifying the Arab stand to achieve the desired goal: establishing a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

Syrian-Iraqi-Turkish Meeting To Address Water Issue

PM1108154493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Aug 93 p 2

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report: "According to Official Source in Damascus, Syrian-Iraqi-Turkish Meeting To Be Held Soon To Draw Up Final Solution to Water Problem"]

[Excerpts] Damascus—Dr. Majid Dawud, director of the International Waters Department at the Syrian Irrigation Ministry, has said that relations between Syria and Turkey are good and unblemished.

He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Turkish officials understand Syria's water position clearly, that the atmosphere surrounding Damascus' contacts with Ankara reflects positive aspects, and that what is said from time to time about new crises over water and so on is merely for local consumption in Turkey and does not affect the essence of the Syrian-Turkish relationship, specifically in relation to water.

Dr. Majid Dawud said that a meeting will be held soon among the Syrian, Iraqi, and Turkish foreign ministers, but a date has not yet been set for it. The water issue will be the essence of the three ministers' agenda. This is in addition to water distribution and drawing up a final, just, and reasonable solution that guarantees the three countries' rights. This solution will be signed in the framework of agreements before the end of 1993 in implementation of the joint statement issued on 20 January 1993 following a visit to Damascus by the then Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, now president. [passage omitted]

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT contacted the Turkish Embassy in Damascus to confirm whether the three ministers will hold this meeting. The embassy's sources said that contacts are under way in this connection, but no date has yet been set for the meeting. However, they pointed out that a meeting will be held this year at expert level to discuss the water issue and take a final decision on it by the three states. The sources did not specify whether the experts' meeting will be held before the proposed meeting of the three states' foreign ministers. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Foreign Mercenaries Brought In To Wage Jihad

PM1208100493 Paris LE MONDE in French 11 Aug 93 pp 1, 6

[Patrice de Beer report: "Muslim Mercenaries in Afghanistan"]

[Text] "My name is Abou Habib, I am Algerian. I entered Afghanistan from Peshawar in Pakistan before Ramadan. I came because the Algerian Government represses Muslims." The bearded young man, dressed in a sweater, gave this reply to the interrogation of Kabul police officers on a video cassette about which LE MONDE has just been informed.

On this video, which is of mediocre quality and is propagated by the supporters of Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, approximately 10 Arabs captured recently around Kabul, especially Algerians—those nicknamed the "Afghans" in Algiers—but also a Saudi, admit having been recruited by ulema and sent to Afghanistan to wage jihad, or holy war.

Of course, such documents, produced by a regime which is not democratic, must be handled with the greatest caution. However, the dozen or so consistent reports recorded in Arabic confirm the presence of Arab fighters alongside the fundamentalists of Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party]. Abou Habib added that "all the Arabs who come to Afghanistan live in houses in Peshawar before crossing the border." Like the others, he was trained in a Hezb-e Eslami camp, which he says is on the Pakistani border and others say is inside the country.

"I arrived without a passport or a visa with a group of 112 Arabs to have military training and fight," another Algerian with bushy hair and beard added, and he admitted having taken part in Hezb-e Eslami's last offensive against Kabul in May.

"The ulema told us that the jihad had not stopped" despite the Soviets' departure and the establishment of an Islamic regime in Kabul. A third man, a former plumber who entered Afghanistan after the fall of the communist regime, said that he "met Hekmatyar in Peshawar. He told us that we had to fight in the name of Allah to establish an Islamic state and to overthrow the Kabul state." A fourth wants to "go and fight in the jihad...in Tajikistan."

A young Saudi volunteer explained that "King Fahd said that the jihad in Afghanistan was over," but that he preferred to follow "other Saudi ulemas and shaykhs who say that we must go nonetheless because the Kabul regime is not Islamic at all."

Hundreds or even thousands of these "Muslim volunteers" are fighting in Afghanistan. After having allowed them to operate from Peshawar and cross the border to fight against the Soviets, Pakistan, which is embarrassed, now wants those who are indulging in hostile activities toward third countries to leave; especially because eye witness reports clearly confirm the use of Pakistan's territory by those who are described as "terrorists" in Algiers or Cairo. On a stopover in Paris a few days ago, Pakistani Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar explained that he no longer wanted these troublemakers on his territory and that 700 of them had been asked to leave (Footnote 1) (However, there are still 2,400 of these Arabs in Peshawar). And he added that contacts had been established with Algeria, Egypt, and Tunisia, whence most of these "bearded men" come. But there is as yet no question of expelling them.

It is easy to say but less easy to do; especially if you remember the close links established between Hekmatyar and the ISI (the Pakistani special military services) (Footnote 2) (The former chief of the ISI, who was responsible for Pakistan's Afghan policy, is still very active in support of Hezb-e Eslami. Read the fascinating memoirs of General Mohammad Yousaf, head of the ISI Afghan bureau from 1983 to 1987 "The Bear Trap, Afghanistan's Untold Story," written with Mark Adkin, Leo Cooper Editions, London 1992. The author tells in particular how in 1986 mojahedin commandos were sent by the ISI to carry out sabotage operations in the then Soviet Tajikistan.) and with the Pakistani extremists of the Jammat Party [name as published] of Qazi Hoseyn Ahmad. The military and Muslim fundamentalists are certainly not counting on Islamabad's foreign minister to conduct Pakistan's Afghan policy.

This is a situation which Dawud Mir, the young charge d'affaires in Paris, who is close to Commander Mas'ud, regrets. Even if his current minister is none other than a supporter of Hekmatyar within a government, which, according to him, was imposed by Pakistan and Iran in the name of Islamic solidarity during the Islamabad agreement last March (Footnote 3) (Mr. Hekmatyar apparently asked the Afghan mission to the United Nations to give passports to the supporters of Shaykh 'Umar [Abd-al-Rahman] implicated in the attack on the World Trade Center). A "government" which, despite the rockets, has not succeeded in establishing itself in Kabul, which is the province of Mas'ud and of a coalition of parties around Head of State Borhanoddin Rabbani's Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society of Afghanistan] Party.

It would be a ludicrous situation if it had not cost 30,000 lives over the past 18 months. "The rockets have made foreign embassies flee, destroyed the state infrastructure, and hounded out the population with the connivence of the Pakistani and Iranian secret services," Mr. Mir insisted in rather undiplomatic language. According to him, faced with Hezb-e Eslami's fundamentalism, supported in both Tehran and Islamabad and in some Saudi circles, financed by private Arab capital, Mas'ud and his allies and the commanders of the interior, represent the "last bastion." "The fundamentalists are within inches of entering Kabul and then Central Asia" with the help of fanaticized Arab mercenaries. "If Hekmatyar captures

Kabul, the whole of Afghanistan will become a base for fundamentalists, risking the further destabilization of the region."

Mr. Mir regrets the passivity of a Western world "which is unable to distinguish between fundamentalists and traditionalist Muslims. All the Afghans and Mas'ud are not fundamentalists" and have had to face "the combined attacks of Shi'ite and Sunni fundamentalists for a year." He is counting primarily on the alliance of the commanders of the interior who have to choose a new defense minister to replace Mas'ud...and prepare for the holding of elections.

He is also worried by the deterioration of the situation on the Afghan-Tajik border. The anti-Islamic repression of the neocommunist regime in Dushanbe, which has led to the flight to northern Afghanistan by 90,000 Tajiks, the bombing of this area by the Russian army—on whom "some extremist elements of the military want to take vengeance for their defeat by the mojahedin"—and the rather confused policy of Moscow are likely to make the population and some local commanders swing to Hezb-e Eslami because they have not forgotten the 10 years of resistance against the "Shuravi."

Golboddin Hekmatyar, who has no shortage of allies, money, or equipment, is ready to help the Tajik resistance, whereas Mas'ud, who is on the defensive, does not have the means of doing so, and wants a political solution to the conflict. Hence the risk of a new potential hotbed of fundamentalism in this border zone of Central Asia.

'Problems' Facing Upcoming Elections

LD1008194593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate the merciful. There is talk now about the issue of elections. Some esteemed jihadi leaders consider now—and also did in the past—the holding of elections and seeking the people's vote as a fundamental means for eliminating the present problems of our country. However, there are some problems in the way of the forthcoming elections, and to ignore them will cause difficulties in the elections.

The BAKHTAR political commentator writes regarding this issue: Many questions arise about the holding of elections. So far it has not been determined who is entitled to stand in elections, whether anyone with Afghan citizenship can become a candidate, and whether those linked to the previous regime can also be a part of this group; or whether there are some restrictions in this regard. Another problem that has so far not been resolved is whether or not women have the right to vote and to stand as candidates. According to views expressed by some jihadi leaders and respected ulema, women can neither vote nor stand as candidates. Some other esteemed jihadi leaders and ulema confer this right on women.

Another major issue is the form of the election, which has so far not been clearly stated; how should these elections be held, and how should the people's vote be sought? A large number of compatriots are directly or indirectly refugees outside Afghanistan. How will they participate in the elections? Whatever the country where the refugees live, how will they prepare the ground for the elections, and in what form will the elections be held there?

Another problem is the atmosphere of peace and security. Although security is ensured in many provinces of the country, which are being administered with discipline by the state authorities, in some provinces there are still rebellious individuals and groups. Their presence during the election campaigns might lead to bloody clashes. [passage omitted]

Yet another fundamental difficulty in this connection is that population registration documents and files have either been completely or partially destroyed, and, due to the lack of a precise census, the size of the country's population is not known, and many of our people do not have citizenship cards.

These issues might cause problems during elections, and might lead to ballot rigging. Elections are a well-established practice in the world, but in our country there is no complete familiarity with this practice. Do people know about the elections, and might not certain [words indistinct] and hegemonists buy people's votes for money, taking advantage of their economic poverty and cultural problems? This issue is also important in terms of timing, because winter is coming. Since snowfalls cause communications problems in many areas, how can elections be held there?

The election commission must take into account these issues which we have pointed out. Serious attention must be paid to these problems and practical measures must be taken to solve them.

What many analysts and commentators on the situation in Afghanistan fear, viewing the elections with doubt, is the lack of sound guarantees as regards the acceptance of the results of the elections. The experience of Shura-e Ahl-e Halo Aqd clearly showed what would be the reaction of the losing parties. The failed party made various excuses and fired rockets into the city. What guarantees are there that such acts will not be repeated in the future elections? [passage omitted]

If the United Nations supervises the elections but fails to hold them in a proper way, the damage will be worse than if the elections had not been held at all.

India

U.S., Pakistan in 'Collusion' Against Nuclear Efforts

BK1008093493 Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Aug 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Pakistan's 'Bomb'"]

[Text] Pakistani care-taker Prime Minister Mr. Moin Qureshi's proud proclamation at his first formal press conference that Pakistan can make atomic bombs is no revelation at all. The fact has been well known since Dr. M. Qadir Khan's sensational disclosures in an interview in 1986. In fact, Pakistan, anxious to redefine its nuclear image, has since never tired of gloating over its achievement based on stolen design purloined from Euroatom's plant in Holland. It is not the substance of Mr. Qureshi's disclosures as much as its timing that is significant. Mr. Qureshi has chosen to make his statement soon after his return from a five-day visit to the U.S. It came a day after Pakistan's High Commissioner in New Delhi, Mr. Riaz Khokhar, who drives coach-and-four across normal diplomatic civilities, had described Indo-Pak relations as being "at the lowest ever reached", putting the blame for such a state of affairs, as was to be expected from such a heavy-footed diplomat, on the shoulders of the host country. This was perfectly in keeping with similar such revelations in the past. The obvious insidious intent behind all such exercises has always been the same: to impress the West, particularly the U.S., of the impending threat of a nuclear holocaust in the subcontinent, especially given the climate of heightened tensions in India-Pakistan relations. By doing so, Islamabad hopes to persuade the Western powers to put pressure on India to sign the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] or push through some other regional arrangement as has been proposed by Islamabad with benign support of the U.S. India, with considerable nuclear capability since 1974, has, as a matter of policy, decided not to exercise its option to acquire nuclear weapons. Pakistan, on the other hand, has, despite its pious disavowals, put together its nuclear device through stealth and cunning. However, the fact that India has kept free its nuclear options and always rejected a discriminatory NPT keeps Pakistan worrying. It is for this reason that it wishes to use the convergence of its interests with those of the U.S. in forcing India to sign the so-called regional NPT. The fact that nuclear non-proliferation is high on the Clinton administration's agenda has also come in handy for Islamabad. Indeed, the fact that over all these years while Pakistan was clandestinely assembling its bomb the U.S. continued to look the other way, makes one suspect a collusion between the two to force India to accept a nuclear regulatory mechanism, to the detriment of India's security. Obviously, at a time when its domestic problems have been temporarily solved and a U.S. clean chit on the issue of sponsorship of terrorism has been provided, Pakistan has revived its nuclear chorus with a view to putting India on the mat. India must not panic—though there is reason to worry. Let Pakistan take out the bombs from its basement. We shall then see what we are to do.

U.S. Likely To Increase Pressure on Nuclear Issues

BK1108133993 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 1 Aug 93 p 12

[By M.K. Dhar]

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 31—The Clinton Administration's support for Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's economic liberalisation policy notwithstanding, pressures on India are bound to increase in the coming months over the human rights and non-proliferation issues.

A Washington visit by Mr. Rao is ruled out in the near future because neither side is prepared for a summit-level Indo-U.S. dialogue, with so many contentious issues remaining unresolved. At the moment, India has a low priority in U.S. eyes.

It is, however, expected that when Ms. Robin Raphel takes over as Assistant Secretary of State and head of the State Department's newly-created South Asia Bureau in Washington, a fresh appraisal of the situation in the region in the light of the Clinton Administration's foreign policy goals will be made.

Ms. Raphel has served in both India and Pakistan and travelled extensively in the region and carries with her first-hand impressions of the political and social changes that are taking place. This should enable her to take a mature and studied view of the issues which are expected to dominate Indo-U.S. relations in the foreseeable future.

The Indian Government has reasons to hope that the relations between India and the U.S. will further deepen and mature and is impressed by Ms. Raphel's testimony before the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Congress last week while seeking confirmation of her appointment. She is here on a short visit to wind up her establishment and is returning to Washington next week. She has been meeting friends and acquaintances and exuding optimism with regard to future of Indo-U.S. relations, provided India too is willing to respond to growing opinion in Administration and the U.S. Congress that New Delhi should heed genuine international concerns about human rights and non-proliferation.

As she told the Congress, more people in the region are beginning to realise that there is room for improvement on the human rights front. A responsible policy to promote human rights values could not be successfuly implemented "through simple criticism or by threatening sanctions. We need to offer countries in the region practical support and assistance in improving human rights awareness and practice."

The U.S. Administration feels that the best way to answer the allegation of human rights abuses by the Indian security forces is to allow human rights organisations to visit Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab and make an assessment. In its view India has been dragging its feet over this issue and, despite promises, till this day Amnesty International or other organisations have not been allowed in. The Government's recent decision to permit international humanitarian and human rights organisations into these States remains unimplemented.

Similarly, the promised Human Rights Commission has not yet been set up and legislation pending in Parliament is given low priority. Thus, an impression is conveyed of

India's non-seriousness in tackling this issue and removing an irritant in Indo-U.S. relations. Speedy action on this front should remove the misgivings among U.S. Congressmen and the Administration.

The Government insists that India's commitment to human rights is second to none and all these rights are guaranteed by the Constitution and a plethora of legislations which give protection to people's rights. The complaints pertained to incidents which took place in very abnormal circumstances in Kashmir, which is facing a proxy war as a result of activities by terrorists supported and armed by Pakistan. Excesses are not being condoned. But these explanations have been given too often, but do not carry conviction with the U.S.

Pressures will be brought to bear on the question of nuclear non-proliferation, regional nuclear-free zones and test ban treaty. The Indian argument that it could not neglect its security, faced as it was with the threat from a nuclear China, is partly accepted. Ms. Raphel and Mr. James Woolsey, CIA Director, have both admitted that China is not living up to its commitment under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) to both of which it subscribes. "China's relationship with Pakistan is of greater concern," admits Mr. Woolsey who noted Beijing's reported sales of M-11 missiles and transfer of equipment to Pakistan. The U.S. is also concerned about Beijing's missiles and chemical transfers to the Middle East.

The issue was also taken up by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in Singapore a few days ago, but the latter denied the sales as well as transfer of components and technology. The CIA has information that even the Pakistani nuclear bomb design was supplied by China, apart from nuclear related technology.

Accordingly, the U.S. Government while taking note of India's concerns insists that it is putting pressure on China to honour its commitments under the NPT and MTCR and would also like to get involved in a regional non-proliferation arrangement without posing threat to the security of other countries. Indications are that the Clinton Administration will press India on the non-proliferation issue regardless of New Delhi's opposition to signing the NPT.

On the issue of missiles the U.S. has been unable to prevent China from violating the MTCR by supplying medium and long-range missiles to several countries in the Middle East including Iran as also Pakistan with which it has a long defence relationship.

Pakistani Elections Affected by 'Political Instability'

BK1108112193 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 11 Aug 93

[D.S. Raizada Commentary]

[Text] Right from its formation, there has been political instability in Pakistan. During these 46 years, Pakistan had three rounds of martial law of long duration, and national assemblies were dissolved seven times. Again, during this period, Pakistan was ruled by four governor generals, three martial law administers, one civilian martial law administrator, seven presidents and 13 prime ministers, including two caretaker prime ministers. It is in this context that the people of Pakistan have heaved a sigh of relief over the peaceful solution of the recent political imbroglio. The president has resigned and prime minister has quit to pave the way for fresh general elections which will be held in October 1993.

The story of elections in Pakistan has been rather dismal and disappointing. Since the establishment of Pakistan, the powerful group—the army and bureaucracy—got more than ample opportunities, one after the other, to rule the country according to their own free will. All of them, however, completely failed to achieve the basic goals, namely, removing political instability and commotion, eradicating provincial prejudices, and welding the people into one integrated nation. It is in this background that the Sindhi Nationalist Party—Jeay Sindh Mahaz and Jeay Sindh Tehrik—have announced that they would not contest the elections because these parties were struggling for independent Sindhu Desh.

The Jeay Sindh Progressive Party has demanded that the caretaker government should call off the current army operation in Sindh and order the release of all political prisoners before holding the general elections. Sindhi nationalists allege that Pakistani establishment wants to break the political will because it is not willing to accept the demand for equality. Sindhis were most literate people in Pakistan, but their young people do not get jobs. They are not given jobs because establishment does not trust the Sindhis.

After the breakaway of East Pakistan in 1971, Sindhi nationalists have become target of Pak establishment. For Bengalis, their culture and language was very dear to them and they wanted equal rights in united Pakistan. But these very people, who had voted for Pakistan, were subjected to bullets. Now, the same is happening in Sindh. This political instability in Pakistan is the direct result of the horrifying imbalance of provinces which, in turn, created monopoly of a few families in politics with no room for any outsider. These so-called politicians have no national interests and when in power they only work for personal gains, says Mahmud Khan Achakzai, Chairman of the Pakhtun Khwa Milli Awami Party in an article in THE DAWN of Karachi. Pakistan, which was carved out by Jinnah, was multinational state—an abode of Bengalis, Sindhis, Balochs, Pakhtuns, and Pakistanis—where practically the interest of the Punjab were considered to be supreme at all costs even at the cost of the integrity of the state.

The Sindhi nationalists are of the view that the politically (?unstable) elections never play any part to improve the situation. Moreover, they do not have enough funds

to contest the elections, whereas IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] or PPP [Pakistan People's Party] have the limitless potential of drug barons to plough megabucks into the election campaign. Even though the Sindhi nationalists have decided not to contest the elections, the Pakistani Saraiki Party headed by Taj Mohammad Khan Langa and the Saraiki National Party headed by Abdul Majid Kanjoo have made arrangements for entering into an electoral alliance with other parties in order to ensure that sufficient number of Saraiki candidates were elected both to the National Assembly and the Punjab Provincial Assembly during the forthcoming elections so that they could fight for a separate Saraiki province and for the restoration of the fundamental rights of the Saraikis. Taj Mohammad Khan Langa has undertaken a series of visits to Sindh, Balochistan, and the North-West Frontier Province for discussions with leaders of the Sindhis, the Balochs, and the Pathans.

Romanian Parliamentarians Begin Talks in Bombay

AU1108094593 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0741 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Bombay ROMPRES, 11/8/1993—A Romanian parliamentary delegation headed by Doru-Ioan Taracila, vice president of the Senate, on a current official visit to India, arrived on Tuesday, 10 August, in Bombay.

The Romanian parliamentarians held separate talks with the speaker and other members in the leadership of the legislative assembly of Maharashtra State, as well as with representatives of the businessmen in Chamber of Commerce in India, headquartered in Bombay (Indian Merchants' Chamber.) The hosts showed their interest for current political and economic issues in Romania, expressing their wish to extend the area and share of commercial exchanges with Romanian companies.

Before leaving New Delhi, the delegation was received by Maulana Azad Rode, vice president of India and president of the Senate [title as received]. The interview, carried out in a warm atmosphere, occasioned a review of parliamentary ties between Romania and India in a proper framework of friendship and collaboration between the two states.

The Indian official granted special attention to changes recorded in the political, economic, and social life of the Romanian people, considering that these changes have created a more proper framework for Romanian-Indian collaboration ties in the interest and to the mutual advantage of both states. Expressing his conviction that an important role for expanding ties between the two countries and peoples is held by both countries' parliaments, the president of the Indian Senate showed his satisfaction over the fact that relations between the two legislative fora in Romania and India have been resumed and furthered fruitfully.

'Militants' Held in Plot To Kill Chief Punjab Minister

BK1208050293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The Punjab police have arrested two militants in connection with an alleged conspiracy to kill the state chief minister, Mr. Beant Singh. The Ludhiana range deputy inspector general [DIG] of police, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, told newspersons in Ludhiana yesterday that this was revealed by the arrested militants during their interrogation. He said one Rajinder Saini, who is absconding, had hatched the conspiracy and instigated two militants belonging to the Khalistan Liberation Force to execute the plan. Mr. Saini had lost in the 1992 elections from Ludhiana-East constituency. The DIG said the police, on a tip-off, arrested militants Bhupinder Singh and Surjit Singh along with lethal weapons and a substantial amount of money.

Iran

Hizballah's Nasrallah on Resistance Efforts

Comments on Future Action

LD1108104193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] The secretary general of the revolutionary Hizballah movement of Lebanon announced in Tehran today: If the Zionist regime attempts any more acts of aggression against southern Lebanon, the Islamic Resistance will defend the deprived people of Lebanon with any weapons possible.

Referring to Hizballah plans to reconstruct the destruction caused by Zionist attacks on Lebanon, Hasan Nasrallah, who was speaking at a news conference today, said: International organizations, particularly the United Nations, have so far given no help to the people of Lebanon. The United States' recent $400,000 aid to Lebanon is tantamount to humiliation for the deprived people of this country because, due to its support for Israel, the United States is the main cause of the destruction.

He added: So far, only the Islamic Republic of Iran has helped the people of Lebanon by sending humanitarian aid. The resistance forces will use development facilities to rebuild the destroyed areas.

The Hizballah secretary general said the common viewpoint of Iran, Syria, and the Lebanese Government to support the Islamic Resistance against the Zionist regime strengthened the people of Lebanon.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1208103893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The Lebanese Hizballah secretary general met and conferred with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today. At the meeting Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah conveyed the gratitude of the oppressed people of Lebanon for the support and humanitarian aid of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He briefed the president on the recent acts of aggression of the Zionist regime and the manner of resistance and steadfastness of the people of Lebanon.

He said: In its recent widespread attacks on Lebanon, relying on the financial and material support of arrogant countries, the Zionist regime attempted to destroy the people, Hizballah, and crusading forces of Lebanon but failed thanks to the all-around, brave resistance of all the classes of the people and popular forces.

The Hizballah secretary general declared to the president the preparedness, solidarity, and resolve of the people of Lebanon to combat enemy plots.

Thanking the Muslim people and popular and military forces of Lebanon for their unprecedented steadfastness and resistance against the widespread acts of aggression of the Zionist regime, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the lack of success of that regime in attaining its oppressive and aggressive goals stemmed from the resolve, unity, and brave resistance of the Muslim people of Lebanon.

Declaring Iran's support for aiding the people of Lebanon and rebuilding that country, the president stressed the necessity for Islamic countries to give all-around assistance to the people of Lebanon and for the unity of all Muslim groups and liberal forces of that country against the Zionist regime and other enemies of Islam.

Group Said Urged To Show Self-Restraint

PM1108143093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Iran Advises Hizballah To Pursue Self-Restraint Policy"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iran has urged Hizballah in Lebanon to display "self-restraint" and give the peace process in the Middle East a second chance, according to what diplomatic sources said in Tehran yesterday.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati explained the Iranian position at a meeting he held in Tehran with senior Hizballah leaders. Hizballah's delegation at the meeting was headed by Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah.

A source close to the Iranian Foreign Ministry said: "Iran is convinced that the peace process will fail because Israel does not intend to return the occupied territories and allow the Palestinians to establish their independent state." The source added: "However, Iran does not want to provide a pretext for this failure, and we want our Arab brothers to uncover the truth by themselves."

The new Iranian orientation also includes additional support for the Lebanese Government. In this context the present Iranian charge d'affaires in Beirut, Homayun 'Alizadeh, has been promoted to the rank of ambassador.

There is also talk in Tehran about an exchange of official visits between President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his Lebanese counterpart Ilyas al-Hirawi.

At the same time Iran has stepped up its material support for Lebanese Hizballah. Five planes carrying food and medical supplies, clothes, and other humanitarian aid sent to Hizballah have arrived in Lebanon.

The new Iranian orientation represents a diplomatic victory for Syria, according to international analysts.

Nasrallah and the delegation accompanying him met also with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Revolutionary Guard.

Commentary Expresses Support for Lebanese Resistance

LD1108135793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0959 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Hasan Nasrallah, secretary general of Lebanon's Hizballah, arrived in Tehran yesterday at the head of a delegation and discussed developments in Lebanon and the region at meetings with a number of our country's high-ranking officials. [passage omitted]

In effect, Hasan Nasrallah's trip to our country is in response to the diplomatic efforts made by the Islamic Republic of Iran to neutralize the political goals of the Zionist regime in its seven-day war against Lebanon. These efforts were made during the Iranian foreign minister's trip to Syria at the height of the Zionist regime's savage air and artillery attacks against Lebanon.

In addition to the fact that Lebanon and Iran share ancient religious and cultural backgrounds, which bind the nations together and make it difficult for the Iranians to remain impartial in the face of the oppression of the people of Lebanon, Iran, and Lebanon's Hizballah have placed opposition to the aggressive Zionist regime on top of their political agenda. The latter is occupying the territories of the two Islamic countries of Palestine and Lebanon and holding the Palestinian and Lebanese nations as hostages to its own policies. Iran and Hizballah consider the occupying Zionist regime as the common enemy of the world of Islam, and they emphasize the necessity for the mobilization of all military, political, economic, and cultural resources to confront this cancerous growth in the region.

The nation and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran are extremely happy that the politico-military plot of the Zionist regime during its seven-day air and artillery war against Hizballah and Lebanon, was defeated. They count this as a victory for the world's Muslims.

In reality, the Zionist regime, with American coordination, was pushing to disarm the Hizballah and the Islamic resistance of Lebanon and to isolate them politically. But, fortunately, the religious, political, and national awareness of the people of Lebanon and the active support of our country for the resistance and the nation and Government of Lebanon, meant that not only was the Zionist regime unsuccessful in achieving its predetermined goals but that, because of the combative resistance of the people, Hizballah and resistance in effect spread from the border strip area under occupation to all of Lebanon; and there was an unprecedented demonstration of national unity and solidarity.

The Zionist regime was not able to separate the Lebanese Government from the Hizballah and resistance. Rather, its stupid action had the effect of gaining, for the first time, political, official, and governmental legitimacy for the Islamic resistance. It also led to the Lebanese Government itself standing on the frontline of anti-Zionist resistance. Of course, this situation has, in its turn, increased the responsibilities of the government, the people, and Hizballah of Lebanon, in preserving this solidarity and coordination and continuation of resistance.

In any case, the Government and nation of the Islamic Republic of Iran congratulate the Hizballah and the nation and government of Lebanon for this victory and believe that they have had a share in this victory. They declare their unstinting support for the heroic deeds of the nation and Government of Lebanon.

Official Gives Details on Russian Embassy Incident

LD1108113793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] While speaking to our correspondent today about his forces' achievements in the current year, Brigadier General Seyfollahi, commander of the law-enforcement forces, commented on the arrest of an armed individual who intended to take the Russian consul in Tehran hostage. He said:

[Begin recording] [Seyfollahi] Thanks to the efforts of the selfless law-enforcement personnel all over the country, more than 22 tonnes of narcotics were seized during the first five months of the year 1372 [beginning 21 March 1993], which is a record. I should explain that 1.048 tons of morphine were recently seized in Zahedan, another 1.4 tons of morphine and 1.23 tons of other narcotics were seized by the force in the eastern regions of the country, mainly in Sistan va Baluchestan Province. More than 300 weapons of various drug-trafficking gangs were captured intact by the forces of Islam during the same operations.

[Correspondent] An individual attacked the Russian consul yesterday. Could you please explain what this was about and say what the outcome was?

[Seyfollahi] As you said, about midday on 10 August an individual went to the Russian Consulate and by threatening the consul-general, imprisoned him in a room. His demand for the release of his hostage unharmed was for the Russian authorities, the Russian Embassy, to arrange for him to be transferred to the United States, France, or Switzerland; otherwise, he would take his own life and that of the diplomat.

Immediately after hearing the news, the law enforcement force arrived at the scene of the incident, and, thanks to coordination with the Russian Embassy through the Iranian Foreign Ministry, a precision police operation was carried out. During this precise and calculated operation, the hostage was freed and handed over to Russian Embassy officials in Tehran, without the slightest damage to the Russian Embassy building or any harm to the embassy staff. [end recording]

Iraqi Claims on Number of Refugees Rejected

LD1108174593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] The head of the Iranian committee in charge of POW affairs rejected the Iraqi regime's claims saying that Iran still holds 20,000 Iraqi captives. In an interview with IRNA, [Mohammad 'Ali] Nazaran said that most of the POW's that the Iraqi regime claims are in Iran have been killed at the front and also a considerable number of them have asked the Islamic Republic of Iran for asylum. The head of the committee in charge of POW affairs added that contrary to what Iraq claims, there are still 5,000 Iranian POW's in Iraq, and—on the basis of the existing evidence and documents—about 8,500 of the Iranian missing in action, out of a total of 25,000, are kept in Iraqi camps. Finally, he announced the Islamic Republic's readiness for reciprocal action to initiate a private meeting between representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and all Iraqis who have sought asylum.

Nateq-Nuri: West's Cultural Onslaught Must be Halted

LD1108172193 Tehran IRNA in English 1709 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11, IRNA—Majlis speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, today referred to cultural activities as the best way to fight off the Western cultural assault and to introduce the Islamic revolution.

Nateq-Nuri said cultural assaults should be confronted, utilizing "modern systems."

"The traditional means of attracting the youth are no longer useful ... There should be innovations to attract each group utilizing means compatible with their nature," advised the speaker.

Nateq-Nuri, who was talking to a group of foreign-based Iranian cultural agents here today, called for efforts to set up fairs, screen films and perform theaters.

Nateq-Nuri called on the group to actively participate in debates, interviews and various meetings and said, "you as our cultural ambassadors abroad can inform the foreigners of revolution's message."

The speaker said cultural wars were aimed at making the youth, the most energetic Iranian individuals, indifferent towards the revolutionary values and fundamentals.

"The world has allocated a heavy propaganda budget for defaming our Islamic system in order to portray it as an irrational system, founded on terror and harshness, wherein the human rights are violated," he added.

Nateq-Nuri reminded foreign-based Iranian cultural agents of the grave responsibility they shouldered and said they should be aware of the latest news and information to strongly confront foreign cultural assaults.

"We will be dealt a blow, if we retreat from our positions," warned the speaker in conclusion.

Pakistan

Talks With U.S. on F-16's at 'Technical' Stage

BK1208085993 Islamabad THE NATION in English 11 Aug 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] Islamabad (AFP)—The negotiations between the United States and Pakistan on the issue of F-16 was at the technical and preliminary stage and has not reached a point where options could be considered.

This was stated by Foreign Office spokesman at a Press briefing here Tuesday [10 August].

He said further talks between the two sides would be held but the dates and the venue would be finalised through the on-going consultations.

"During discussions the two sides have attempted to explore ways and means to achieve a fair and amicable settlement" keeping in view the friendship characterising US-Pakistan relations, he said. The US team visited Pakistan from August 4 to 5 and held talks with Pakistani authorities.

Asked to comment on reports that Pakistan wanted the F-16 be sold to Saudi Arabia and that Taiwan was also interested, the spokesman categorically said, "as regard to speculation to third country, I can only say this is speculation." He said the parleys between the two sides had not reached any stage and the "options are far that you have mentioned". [sentence as published]

The spokesman said the US congressional delegations visit to Pakistan had nothing to do with the F-16 issue.

Japan he said had agreed to provide Rs. [rupees] 12 billion loan to Pakistan. He said the delay in the finalisation of the agreement between the two countries was in no way related to the issue of nuclear non-proliferation. He said it pertained to many other issues pending at the technical level.

He said a team of technical officials from Pakistan visited Tokyo recently and finalised the details of the loan agreement which was a normal procedure.

The Japanese team, he said, came here and the two sides had successful and fruitful talks. He said Pakistan was happy that the Japanese had a positive perception of former's policies and approach.

The spokesman said Japanese debt to other countries had relevance to non-proliferation, weapons of mass destruction, policy of peace and security [word indistinct] that was a parallel stream and part of Japanese policy. [sentence as published]

Regarding some other proposals concerning relations between the two countries he said the [word indistinct] were still on the agenda. It was Japan's turn to invite a team from Pakistan to have further talks on the said proposals, he said. He did not elaborate on the proposals.

The spokesman said Pakistan was engaged in serious endeavours to ensure the safe release of the Chinese engineers kidnapped by some groups recently from Balochistan.

"In securing the release of the Chinese citizens we should act with more responsibility", he said.

Pakistan, he said, had already provided 30 million dollars assistance to Bosnia-Herzegovina and had committed another 5 million dollars. He said Pakistan was also extending diplomatic support to Bosnia.

The spokesman expressed Pakistan's readiness to provide assistance and support to improve the situation on Afghan-Tajik border. He said Afghan Foreign Minister Hidayat Arsala would proceed to Duahanbe today.

In Somalia, he said, peace had been restored in most parts but there was still some problem in south of Mogadishu, controlled by warlord Gen. [General] Aideed. He said Gen. Farah Aideed felt that the power he enjoyed by controlling Mogadishu airport in past was now slipping away due to UN troops presence in Somalia. That was the reason, he had targeted Pakistani, Moroccan and now USA troops there under the UN auspices, be added.

He said Pakistan believed that the UN operation in Somalia once started should be pursued keeping in view the larger objectives. He said there could be temporary setbacks but there was a definite progress in Somalia.

The people had begun their normal activities in most of the area and Somalia was even exporting many food items, he added.

Meanwhile Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar is leaving for US on OIC [Islamic Conference Organization—ICO] mission. The Foreign Office spokesman said the OIC mission would hold talks with the United Nations Secretary General in New York and US Secretary of State Mr Christopher in Washington. Schedule of such visit is being finalised, he added.

He said, Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar last week led a OIC ministerial mission to Paris, London and Geneva and held talks with the French foreign minister, British secretary of state co-chairman peace conference and apprised them about the critical situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The delegation also called on the President of Bosnia-Herzegovina in Geneva.

The spokesman said the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is serious and critical. Negotiations are at a delicate stage, he remarked. He said, OIC mission is continuing to extend maximum support in the government of Bosnia and victims of Serbian aggression.

He said the Government of Pakistan circulated a resolution in the UN Security Council seeking immediate cease-fire and a halt to Serbian aggression. He said "We are in consultation with other members of the Security Council as to when this resolution can be put to vote".

He said, Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar Monday called the NATO ambassadors to the ministry and appealed for their support to the proposal of the enforcement action against Serbian aggressors if they do not stop their onslaught particularly on Sarajevo and withdraw from the position occupied after the cease-fire.

Meanwhile, Pakistan on Tuesday called upon the world community to act expeditiously to halt massive human rights violations in the Indian-held Kashmir which is essential to defuse tension in the region.

The spokesman of the Foreign Office said that Government of Pakistan was deeply concerned at the ongoing campaign of repression in occupied Kashmir. The killing of a young boy and a family by the Indian security forces have led to widespread public anger and protest in Srinagar and other parts of held Valley. These protests in held Kashmir, he said had been suppressed with characteristic force. It is feared that the violence in the held state may escalate further.

The spokesman further stated that Government of Pakistan condemned the brutalities being committed against the people of Indian held Kashmir and expressed the sympathy and support of the people of Pakistan. He said the world community should take steps to stop the massive human rights violations in the held Valley which is essential to defuse tension in the region.

The spokesman said peace and security in the region could only be achieved through settlement of the Kashmir dispute on the basis of UN resolution and the will of the people of held Kashmir.

Islamabad Denies Sending Mojahedin to Kashmir

BK1108044993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 10 Aug 93 p 5

[By Anwar Iqbal]

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan and Afghanistan Monday denied an Indian allegation that they had sent Afghan mojahedin to fight against the Indian troops in the northern Himalayan valley of Kashmir.

In two separate statements both the countries denied that the Indian claim as mere propaganda designed to minimise the impact of the Kashmiri struggle for freedom. [sentence as published]

Officials in New Delhi said Sunday they had evidence that the Afghan mojahedin guerrillas had been pressed into the Kashmir insurgency by Pakistan's military intelligence.

They also identified one of the Kashmiri fighters, who was killed by Indian troops in the Indian occupied Kashmir earlier this week, as Mohammed Akbar Qureshi, an ex-aide of the Afghan Prime Minister, Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Hekmatyar's office in Islamabad issued a statement that the man the Indians claimed was Hekmatyar's aide, had nothing to do with the Afghan Premier.

The statement also clarified that the man did not belong to the Afghan Prime Minister's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] party.

The office said that the Afghan mojahedin were not involved in the fighting in the Indian occupied Kashmir and India was blaming them to "externalise the Kashmiri struggle for freedom".

A spokesman for the Pakistan Foreign Office, while commenting on the Indian claim, said both Kashmiris and Afghans had fair skin and similar features and India was presenting Kashmiris killed by its troops as Afghans.

He said: "India is trying to present the Kashmiri struggle as foreign inspired. But it is clear as day light that the struggle is indigenous."

He said the way hordes of Kashmiris came out in the streets during the last two weeks, breaking curfew, to protest Indian occupation of the valley showed the popularity of the movement for freedom.

He said Pakistan had not sent any Pakistani or Afghans to the Indian occupied Kashmir.

He also demanded the Indian government to recognise the movement by the Kashmiri freedom fighters in the

Indian occupied Kashmir as a genuine struggle against its occupation because "no amount of deception can hide this fact".

Nuclear Nonproliferation, Kashmir 'Interlinked'

BK1108131393 Lahore JANG in Urdu 1 Aug 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Position on the Nuclear Weapon and the Kashmir Dispute"]

[Text] Caretaker Prime Minister Moin Qureshi has said that the goal of nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia cannot be achieved without resolving the Kashmir issue. Kashmir is the primary source of tension in the region, and no agreement on the nuclear issue is possible without resolving it. The prime minister said this during his meeting with U.S. Vice President Al Gore on 29 July. The caretaker prime minister told the vice president that Pakistan also wants a solution on the nuclear issue. However, he added that we would like to see our neighboring countries take corresponding steps as well. We are also aware of the need to spend our resources on the country's development instead of on military purposes, but we can do so only when the other party is ready for a peaceful resolution of bilateral disputes. The caretaker prime minister said that we want to resolve the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN resolutions. We have a flexible attitude and we are ready to consider any possible alternative settlement which takes into account the viewpoints of the Kashmiris.

The United States has been exerting pressure on South Asian countries to check nuclear proliferation. Pakistan is facing the heaviest pressure. This is why the United States suspended its economic and defense aid to Pakistan in October 1990. Moreover, it is also refusing to supply the 60 F-16 planes it sold to Pakistan. But Pakistan has been paying for these planes, as was agreed.

Recently, Pakistan made a proposal to India to conclude an agreement with Pakistan on not conducting any nuclear tests. India's response was not positive. Pakistan also made a proposal to freeze the nuclear programs of the two countries at their existing levels. India is not willing to do this either. Pakistan's position on nuclear nonproliferation has been sensible and logical from the very beginning. But India has always rejected all possible options proposed by Pakistan. The prime minister is absolutely right in saying that the questions of nuclear weapons and Kashmir are interlinked.

Some quarters in Pakistan might not agree with the prime minister's view that Pakistan is ready to consider any option other than the one found in the UN resolutions on Kashmir. But the prime minister's offer has put the ball in India's court. The prime minister's observation that any solution should take into account the opinion of Kashmiris is a very reasonable precondition, because the Kashmiris are the key party to this dispute. Unfortunately, as with its policy on the nuclear issue, India persists in a policy of "I will not accept" on the Kashmir issue. It is not willing to remove the main cause of the dispute between the two countries.

Moin Qureshi is absolutely right in advising that Pakistan and India should spend their resources on national construction and development. The situation at present is that India is spending 3.3 percent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on defense needs. This is the figure that India itself has announced. Experts, however, feel that India spends more on defense than what it announces. Pakistan spends 6.6 percent of its GDP on its defense—a big burden on Pakistan, and one it wishes to reduce. As one-third of Pakistan's population and half of India's population live below the international standard of poverty, it is imperative for the governments of both the countries to improve the lot of their people. This responsibility can be fulfilled only when the defense expenditures are slashed. Being smaller than India and having limited resources, Pakistan's expenditures for its defense amount to more than double its total expenditures in the education and health sectors. The obvious result is that it cannot afford to provide the required standards of education and health facilities to its people. Pakistan wants to change this state of affairs. But that will be possible only when it is satisfied with the regional situation and when it is confident that there is no danger to its security.

If the United States is really interested in South Asian affairs and wants to see a positive atmosphere in the region, then it should persuade India to resolve the fundamental dispute of Kashmir in accordance with the requirements of justice. It will remove the existing mistrust between the two countries and will also pave the way for checking nuclear proliferation. It will also open up the way for starting multidimensional cooperation between the two countries. All this is possible only when India agrees to respect the principles of justice, fair play, and truthfulness. Unfortunately, India's past records leave no scope for any optimism. Nevertheless, Moin Qureshi has clearly explained Pakistan's position to Al Gore. Pakistan cannot be held responsible now if proliferation of the nuclear weapon is not checked and tension in the region continues unabated.

Qureshi: Kashmir is Pakistan's 'Soul'

BK1108152193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, presided over the meeting of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council in Muzaffarabad today. The council's budget for the year 1993-94, amounting to more than 884 million rupees, was presented at the meeting. The caretaker federal minister for Kashmir affairs, retired Lieutenant General Mohammad Shafiq, presented the budget. The budget envisages a total income of 884 million rupees, while the total expenditures are of the same amount. It was pointed out that the council's income has registered an increase of about 100 million

rupees as compared with 1991-92 year's budget. A special grant for development expenditure of more than 100 million rupees has been allocated in the budget. About 5 million rupees has been reserved for educational activities and connected programs for the Kashmiri people.

The meeting also adopted a unanimous resolution urging the international community to take appropriate steps to prevail upon India to end human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir. It stated that the world community should impress upon India to facilitate a just and equitable solution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with international and bilateral commitments. It also requested the secretary general of the United Nations to send a fact-finding mission to the occupied state to make an on-the-spot investigation of the enormous crimes being committed against innocent men, women, and children and the gross violation of their human rights.

The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, has said that Kashmir liberation movement cannot be crushed by anyone and Kashmiris are fighting the battle for Pakistan's survival. He was addressing Kashmiri refugees at a tentage village near Muzaffarabad today. On arrival at the tentage village, the prime minister attended a briefing on the plight of the refugees. Also at display was an exhibition of photographs arranged by the Jammu and Kashmir human rights movements. Our Muzaffarabad representative Ayub Minhas says the photographs depict the grave human rights violations by Indian forces.

Addressing the refugees, the caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, said the reign of terror let loose by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir will eventually come to an end and the people fighting for the just cause of self-determination will finally secure victory. Mr. Moin Qureshi said his government, despite its short tenure, will continue to support the Kashmiri people politically, morally, and diplomatically at all levels. He said Kashmir is Pakistan's soul. It is among our objectives to see this issue resolved according to the wishes of the Kashmiris and the resolution of the United Nations. He paid glowing tributes to the mojahedin for their sacrifices for their just cause. They are fighting for the glory of Islam and solidarity of Pakistan. They will always find Pakistan behind them.

The prime minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, thanked the prime minister for his government's continued support for the people of Kashmir. He also appreciated that during his recent visit to the United States, he presented the cause of Kashmiris during his talks with the American leadership.

Later, talking to newsmen, the caretaker prime minister said his government will continue its endeavors to highlight the gross human rights violations taking place in occupied Kashmir. He said that during his recent visit to Washington, he discussed the Kashmir issue with American leaders and apprised them of the Indian oppression on Kashmiris. To a question, he said no power will be allowed to impose a solution of its choice in Kashmir. The issue can only be settled in the light of the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and under the United Nations resolutions.

Article Urges Reform of Banking System

BK1008143993 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 9 Aug 93 p 7

[Text] In his speech at 42nd annual general meeting of the Institute of Bankers in Karachi, the new Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan Dr. Muhammad Yaqub said that he was determined to change the banking system from a bureaucratic machinery to a service industry and rid the nationalised banks of political and bureaucratic interference to assure the depositors that their savings were in safe hands. He added that he would put the housing, banking system on a sound footing to move it towards the 21st century on the wheels of modern technology and gains in efficiency and would remove any malpractices that exist.

Commercial banks are the most important source of institutional credit in the country. They constitute a vital sector around which the economy itself revolves. Soon after independence a banking vacuum was created in Pakistan by the exodus of Hindu bankers who held a virtual monopoly of banking business. Not only that, there was no central bank to take up the development of a banking system in the country. A landmark in the development of Pakistan was establishment of the State Bank of Pakistan which was declared open by Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Junnah on July 1, 1948. After that national commercial banking in Pakistan began to register rapid progress.

During the two decades between the end of December 1953 and the end of 1973, the number of Pakistani banks rose from 6 to 13. This period witnessed an increase in Pakistani banks' offices from 124 to 3,442. Deposits during 1953-73 increased from Rs.1,539 million to Rs.23,265 million. Advances swelled from Rs.781 million to Rs.18,628 million. Total assets rose from Rs.2,063 million to Rs.50,221 million.

However, the expansion in banking in Pakistan did not prove an unmixed blessing. The quantitative progress of banking in the first 25 years revealed serious malfunctioning and unhealthy practices. A former Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan wrote about this period in the words. "The success achieved by Pakistan's banking system had been truly spectacular. At the same time, the banks had generally neglected their role in promoting social justice and had failed to play an effective part in ensuring a wider and more equitable dispersal of the benefits of economic growth. In particular, the interlocking of ownership with commercial and industrial interests had led to a misuse of bank resources. There was a heavy concentration of credit in big accounts and in urban areas. Credit facilities for agriculture, small business, newly emerging exports and housing had remained potently inadequate. While the

banks indulged in capital financing and issued guarantees on behalf of favoured clients, term financing facilities for industry were wholly absent. In fact, in the craze of expansion, many unhealthy trends and unethical practices had crept into banking." (S.A. Meenai—Money and Banking in Pakistan, page 17). This led to nationalization of the commercial banks on January 1, 1974.

Nationalisation of commercial banks was a major economic reform in the country. It was envisaged to end the exploitation of these banks by a handful of industrialists and banking to become a national industry saturated with the spirit of service to people and the economy. But nationalisation actually turned out to be bureaucratisation of banking. The bureaucrats and the bankers, the product of pre-nationalisation period, could not be expected to change in outlook overnight from a mere change of ownership. They found a wild field to give a free play to their whims and caprices without fear of any accountability.

Not only that, the nationalised banks were made to advance huge loans on political considerations and without adequate collateral and then were forced to write them off without any banking justification. Loans were sanctioned even to the defaulters by merely changing the names. The public and the depositors were, however, never apprised of the true state of affairs. The financial sector thus found itself fettered and susceptible to political pressure.

According to informed sources, the 'sick' portfolio of the commercial banks and development financial institutions (DFIs) at the end of June 1993 amounted to Rs. 23.471 billion. Of this Rs. 5.83 billion is due from industrial units which are closed. Of the total outstanding amount, the commercial banks have to recover Rs. 9.85 billion. In the past the names of the big borrowers were disclosed in the Press, but the action taken to recover the loans allowed in violation of banking law and practice remained unknown. The State Bank, as the custodian of the financial sector, was reduced to the status of almost a silent spectator vis-a-vis the banking disarray.

The issue of write-off of bank loans has been debated now for many years. It is now known that all these years while the small borrowers suffered for want of adequate collateral, the big and influential thrived at the expense of large number of savers as happened in the case of cooperatives illegally functioning as commercial banks. The exposure of those availing unjustified write off on political grounds will help to reorganise national banking on sound commercial and ethical lines. It is a happy augury that the present caretaker government, not suffering from any political constraints, has taken cognisance of the unrecovered loans in the banking sector in order to take prompt action for their recovery.

With a view to maintain viability of the financial system, the State Bank issued the prudential regulations which came into force with effect from 1st July 1992. These regulations cover various aspects of the operations of commercial banks, namely, limit on finance facility to a single person, banks contingent liabilities, limit on various advances, maintenance of debt equity ratio etc. A new department has been set up in the State Bank to enforce the prudential regulations effectively.

There is no gainsaying the fact that good banking depends entirely on good bankers. Good bankers are not born but made through appropriate recruitment and continuous training. Unfortunately this aspect of sound banking was not properly looked after, neither in the pro-nationalisation period nor after nationalisation. Merit, honesty and hard work do not appear to carry weight with the concerned authorities. Unless this basic deficiency is removed, no package of banking reforms, including the prudential regulations will produce the desired results.

Last but not the least, to enable the State Bank to effectively and faithfully discharge its functions as central bank of the country for ensuring monetary stability and putting the banking system on a sound footing it is imperative to endow it with constitutionally guaranteed independent status. This will go a long way in streamlining the banking system and strengthening the confidence of the depositors about the safety of their deposits.